

Cabinet approves agreements

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet approved in a meeting held Tuesday for the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker a protocol agreement reached between the Jordanian and Italian governments. The protocol provides for allocating 46 million Italian liras as a soft loan to finance Jordanian imports from Italy. The loan will be paid in 36 payments, the first of which will be paid after 150 months on the expiry of the agreement at an annual interest rate of 1.5 per cent. The Cabinet also approved the results of talks between Jordan and Germany on the 22 German technical and capital assistance to Jordan. According to the agreement, 35 million Deutschmarks will be extended as capital assistance and 20 million Deutschmarks as technical assistance. The Jordanian government also approved a cooperation agreement between the Jordanian and Italian governments for the years 1993-95. The agreement provides for cooperation between the two countries in the fields of education, science, culture, sports, and agriculture. The Council of Ministers also approved recommendations by Agriculture Minister Fayez Al-Jarrah on compensating farmers in the Zarga Valley Basin whose crops were destroyed by the government for health reasons.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردين تيمز يومية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Page 17 Number 5178

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1992, JUMADA AL THANI 12, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Cairo court quashes military sentence

CAIRO (AP) — A Cairo court Tuesday ordered suspension of a decree by President Hosni Mubarak putting 40 Muslim extremists on military trial for sedition and negating "everything resulting from it." The ruling by the administrative court, which handles civilian lawsuits against the government, in effect nullifies two military trials in which judgments were handed down last Thursday in the Mediterranean port of Alexandria. Two of the defendants in the two cases sued the government before the Cairo-based administrative court. Their defence attorneys argued that Mr. Mubarak acted illegally in sending the cases to a military tribunal and that the defendants should be tried by civilian state security courts. The Alexandria tribunal, which heard the two cases separately, sentenced eight defendants to death, four to life imprisonment, 27 others to lesser jail terms and acquitted nine. Seven of those condemned to die were fugitives and said to have fled abroad. The government has the right to appeal Tuesday's ruling to a higher bench of the administrative court. But there was no immediate word whether it will do so.

Parliament rallies behind democratic approach and administrative reforms

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday expressed satisfaction with the progress Jordan has made in its democratisation drive but said more work is needed to abolish what it said were unconstitutional provisions in the country's legislation. The cancellation of martial laws "is not only a prominent mark of our unwavering support for democracy but also a motive to remove unconstitutional provisions from legislation," the House said in its reply to His Majesty King Hussein's Speech from the Throne with which he opened the fourth and last session of the 11th Parliament Dec. 1.

Apart from the Arab-Israeli peace process, the House responded to all points raised in the King's speech, expressing agreement on many issues, but urging faster government action on domestic issues.

Stressing its commitment to multi-party democracy "away from intellectual terrorism and accusations" and within the framework of the Constitution and the National Charter, the House called for implementing law in an open mentality that corresponds with "realistic changes and nurtures the democratic process with enlightenment and responsibility."

In a 13-page reply read out at a meeting with King Hussein at the Royal Court, the House also stressed the importance of guaranteeing citizens their constitutional rights and freedom in accordance with the law. While it considered threats to national security a crime against all citizens, the House also demanded firm action against any infringement upon public freedom and violation of

fundamental rights. "We believe that consolidating democracy (means) building the state of law and institutions where citizens enjoy freedom, equality, security and stability," the House said in its reply which was read out by House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki and senior Royal Palace and government officials.

While the reply of the Upper House of Parliament to the King's speech blamed Israel for the lack of progress in the Arab-Israeli peace talks, the Lower House made no reference to the process, which is opposed by the Muslim Brotherhood bloc, the largest group in the House.

In its reply, which Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi read out Tuesday, the Upper House said peace in the Middle East should be just and comprehensive, leading to the fulfilment of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on its soil.

"(Middle East peace) should be based on international legitimacy (and should lead) to a complete (Israeli) withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, especially Jerusalem," the Senate said.

Without referring to the peace process, the Lower House said it "will continue to defend the Palestinian cause until (Palestine) is liberated from occupation."

"The Palestinian issue is the central issue of our nation. We have shouldered a great deal of its burden, stood by its people and supported their intifada on the land of Palestine, which we will continue to defend until it, especially Jerusalem, is liberated," the House said.

Both Houses of Parliament voiced support for King Hussein's efforts to bring about Arab reconciliation and praised Jordan's stand in support of Iraq and against attempts to partition

"In the name of your people," the Lower House said, "we call on you to continue your efforts to rebuild solidarity among Arab and Muslim states."

The House echoed the King's warning that the Arab Nation would have no role in shaping the emerging new world order unless it overcome its differences.

Both Houses of Parliament welcomed the government's plan to draft a law for teacher's union, with the Lower House urging the government to speed the process so that it can debate the law before the end of its current session this spring.

The government's administrative reform plan was also praised by the two Houses. But administrative development, said the Lower House, cannot be achieved through changing senior management only.

The House said there was a need for reconstructing the organisational charter of the administrative system in its entirety and called for the development of local management and decentralisation, which have become an "urgent necessity."

The protection of public funds, said the House, requires the activation of the Audit Bureau so that it can effectively monitor public spending. The House said a new law for the bureau was required so that it could cope with the changes that have occurred since the current law was adopted.

The economic situation in the country was emphasised by the two Houses, which called for effective measures to cushion the impact of poverty, unemployment and price hikes on society.

The Upper House said that more citizens had fallen below the poverty line in recent years and "that there is

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His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday receives Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi (left) and Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat upon their arrival at the Royal Court accompanied by senators and deputies to present their respective House's reply to the Speech from the Throne (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Arafat: Talks will continue

TUNIS (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat appealed Tuesday to all Palestinian factions to close ranks in national unity but promised to continue the peace talks many of them oppose.

In a statement marking the fifth anniversary of the Palestinian uprising, Mr. Arafat said all the Palestinians should join the PLO, which he described as their "meeting point."

"Effective national unity between all groups and forces fighting the Israeli occupation is our only shield on the road of liberation and victory," Mr. Arafat said.

Mr. Arafat insisted that the Palestinians would continue peace negotiations despite a deadlock he attributed to the Israelis.

Mr. Arafat also accused the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of blocking progress in the negotiations through "procrastination and time-wasting tactics."

Although he urged the United States to restore its dialogue with the PLO, he accused Washington of bias towards Israel in the negotiations.

The PLO leader reiterated that the uprising against Israel will continue until the Palestinians are able to set up an independent state.

He was given sanctuary by His Majesty King Hussein.

After an attempted coup against the state in 1957 by a socialist-inspired group of Arab nationalists, the Brotherhood found a special place in Jordan's political system.

In the early 1980s when the Syrian Brotherhood was crushed and thousands of its members were killed in an uprising in the city of Hama, many found sanctuary in Jordan.

Jordan's willingness to grant them sanctuary often caused friction between the Jordanian government and that of Egypt and later Syria. But the Jordanian government never wavered and continued to welcome persecuted Brotherhood members.

Even before the democratisation process began in Jordan members of the Brotherhood held portfolios in the government.

The post of undersecretary in the Ministry of Education was frequently held by a member of the Brotherhood, including present House Speaker Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

The first time the Brotherhood officially joined any government was when former Prime Minister Mudar Badran invited them to join his cabinet in 1991. Subsequently five Brotherhood deputies were appointed to cabinet posts.

Since the government of Badran resigned in mid-1991, no member of the Brotherhood has joined the cabinet because the group opposes Jordan's participation in peace talks with Israel.

Two members of Sharif Zeid's government, Minister of Justice Youssef

Palestinians propose U.S. join peace talks; Israel says no

Combined agency despatches

THE PALESTINIAN delegation to Mideast peace talks is calling on the United States to formally enter the discussions, but Israeli opposes the proposal.

"We must learn to talk to each other without intermediaries," Yossi Gal, spokesman for the Israeli delegation, said late Monday.

Mr. Gal criticised the Palestinians for sending only a handful of negotiators here, a step taken to protest Israel's refusal to meet Palestinian demands on the West Bank and Gaza.

The Israeli spokesman called it "an indication they don't view this round as sufficiently important."

For several months, the Palestinians have been lobbying for a more direct U.S. impact on the negotiations over the future of the occupied territories.

As a new round of negotiations opened Monday, Palestinian spokesman Hanan Ashrawi said her de-

legation had put the proposition to Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian, "They're looking into it," she told reporters.

Noting President George Bush intends to meet with negotiators when the current round of the talks ends Dec. 17, Dr. Ashrawi said, "Maybe they can work out three way, trilateral discussions in order to overcome some of the basic obstacles."

Under the rules the two sides must agree before the United States or Russia, the co-hosts, can intervene directly.

Mr. Gal, making clear where Israel stands, said: "There is no substitute for direct, face to face negotiations by the parties."

He added: "The co-sponsors are there to facilitate the process, not to replace the negotiations."

Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater announced that Mr. Bush would meet with the delegates "in the interests of maintaining the momentum of the talks" during the transition from the Bush administration of the Clinton administration.

The Palestinians sent a small de-

legation to Monday's talks at the State Department to register their disapproval of Israel's proposals for limited self-rule on the West Bank and Gaza.

The Palestinian delegation was trimmed from 14 to 4. But it did not boycott the talks.

Israel's chief negotiator, Elyakim Rubinstein, said he was disappointed with the Palestinian decision to keep most of its delegates at home, which meant it would be difficult to get any real business done.

"You can't split into working groups, you can't really work," he said.

The Israeli-Palestinian talks have been the biggest disappointment of the 13-month-old peace process, which began amid high hopes at the Madrid peace conference of October 1991.

The sides are supposed to be negotiating on self-rule for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. But Dr. Ashrawi said Israel's proposals so far did not meet the

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Somali leaders pledge cooperation with U.S.

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Somalia's chief warlords Tuesday urged their militiamen to keep their gun-mounted vehicles away from the port and airport to avoid clashes with the U.S. forces expected within a day.

Relief agencies prepared to scale back operations in case of heavy fighting breaks out with the arrival early Wednesday of 1,800 U.S. marines, and rushed to free an Italian relief worker held by militiamen.

The order for militiamen to withdraw their heavier arms issued by General Mohammed Farrah Aidede and his chief rival in the north, Ali Mahdi Mohamud — raised hopes that the U.S. arrival might not lead to fighting in the muddy streets of the capital.

The U.S. Marine force is the vanguard of a force of some 28,000 American troops sent to make sure food and medicine reach the Somali people, instead of being looted by bandits and militiamen.

France, Canada, Italy, Egypt, Zimbabwe, Turkey, Kuwait, Russia and other nations also plan to send troops or civilian personnel to aid the operation, sanctioned last week by the U.N. Security Council.

U.S. special envoy Robert Oakley met with Gen. Aidede and Mr. Ali Mahdi Tuesday and told reporters both had advised their roving bands of armed mil-

litiamen to avoid confrontations with the Americans.

"They repeated their desire for cooperation, and they are broadcasting this message over their respective radio stations," Mr. Oakley told reporters after a day of talks on both sides of the line separating the war-shattered city.

Gen. Aidede, speaking to reporters after his talks with Mr. Oakley, said the ambassador had told him the soldiers would arrive Wednesday at Mogadishu's airport and port. "We welcome the American mission and the U.S. troops to Somalia," he said.

Security was tight at the mosque-like headquarters, where journalists were told to remove their shoes in deference to Islamic tradition and searched thoroughly for weapons.

On the eve of the military intervention, bands of rifle-wielding clansmen rode through the rain-soaked remnants of the city centre in jeeps and pickup trucks mounted with everything from machine guns to cannons.

These militiamen are blamed for the looting and extortion that has crippled efforts to save Somalia's starving millions.

Bursts of gunfire echoed through the city and children wandered nonchalantly with AK-47 automatic rifles through streets reeking with the odor of death. But one relief worker said

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Israelis keep Gaza under siege

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front, a newly established political party that mainly represents the Muslim Brotherhood movement, was legalised Tuesday.

Minister of Interior Jawdat Shoul presented the related legal papers to Ishaq Farhan, secretary general of the front.

Although the Brotherhood has had more freedom to organise than any other political movement since political parties were banned in 1957, members of the group were overjoyed at hearing that their group was officially recognised.

"It is a great feeling. God willing, we will serve this country as well in the democratic era as we did before 1989," said a spokesman at the Brotherhood's office in Abdali.

The Brotherhood, with 23 members in the Lower House of Parliament, and the government had always enjoyed a relationship unique in the Arab World.

In the heydays of pan-Arabism, when the Brotherhood was persecuted everywhere, the Brotherhood found a sanctuary in the Kingdom.

The movement was founded and led by Islamic graduates of the Al-Azhar University of Cairo. Because they were vehemently anti-socialist in their political stands, they were persecuted in Egypt under the late President Gamal Abdul Nasser who had many of their leaders jailed.

Brotherhood leaders, who vowed allegiance to non-socialist Jordan,

were given sanctuary by His Majesty King Hussein.

After an attempted coup against the state in 1957 by a socialist-inspired group of Arab nationalists, the Brotherhood found a special place in Jordan's political system.

In the early 1980s when the Syrian Brotherhood was crushed and thousands of its members were killed in an uprising in the city of Hama, many found sanctuary in Jordan.

Jordan's willingness to grant them sanctuary often caused friction between the Jordanian government and that of Egypt and later Syria. But the Jordanian government never wavered and continued to welcome persecuted Brotherhood members.

Even before the democratisation process began in Jordan members of the Brotherhood held portfolios in the government.

The revolt erupted in the Gaza Strip on Dec. 9, 1987.

"The closure is to prevent the flight of suspicious persons from the Strip," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told army radio, "the immediate purpose obviously is to get those who killed our soldiers."

The army blocked Gaza Palestinians from entering the Jewish state and imposed curfews on all major refugee camps and several towns, confining at least 400,000 people to their homes.

Palestinian reports said soldiers went door-to-door in the Jabaliya, Bureij and Nusseirat camps, apparently searching for the guerrillas who staged Monday's attack with automatic rifles.

Moshe Arens, a former defence minister from the right-

nistan's anger at the Ayodhya incident.

Condemnation came from Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates, where hundreds of Muslim Indian and Pakistani traders shut up shop on Monday.

In Britain, home to about 1.3 million people of Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi descent, four Hindu temples were set ablaze in suspected arson attacks Tuesday.

no-one was hurt.

The destruction of the 16th century Ayodhya mosque was the climax to a dispute which had killed more than 2,500 people in Hindu-Muslim riots over the past three years.

It played a significant role in the fall of two national governments in three years and carried the Hindu chauvinist BJP from obscurity to become the second biggest party in parliament.

Militant Hindus claim that

Babur, India's first Muslim Moghul emperor, built the mosque from the rubble of an earlier temple he had demolished in 1528, a claim disputed by Muslims.

The BJP had promised that Sunday's mass gathering would be symbolic only and the mosque would not be touched. Instead, party leaders watched helplessly as tens of thousands of their followers tore it down, many with bare hands.

There were reports that the destruction was carefully planned. The Independent newspaper of Bombay quoted Member of Parliament Moreswar Sava as saying 500 activists trained for the operation for two weeks at a secret camp.

Arrest warrants were issued for leaders of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council) which spearheaded the campaign.

Two suspects held in murder of Iraqi

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two Iraqi nationals have been detained in connection with the killing in Amman Monday of an Iraqi engineer employed by the government, security sources said Tuesday.

The two were detained as they were trying to leave the country shortly after Muayad Hassan Najji Al Janabi was shot dead, the sources said. "Investigations are continuing; more details could be available tomorrow," said one of the sources.

"All options are open," said the source without elaboration when asked whether there was any clear indication of who could be behind the killing, the first of its kind in Jordan in recent times.

Mr. Janabi, 52, described by his wife as a chemical researcher who worked for the Iraqi Nuclear Energy Commission until 1986 before moving to the Ministry of Military Industrialisation, was shot dead at point blank range by a gunman in black Monday morning near the Hussein refugee camp in Jabal Hussein.

Mrs. Janabi said her husband, herself and their two children — a girl of six and a boy of four — were on their way to the Tunisian embassy to get a transit visa for the trip to Libya when a gunman wearing black trousers and jacket and a black scarf masking part of his face approached them from behind.

The assailant "pulled my husband from the back and shot him in his head," said the wife, Wafa, 35. "My husband managed to say 'why' before collapsing. The man shot him at least three times more."

The assailant fled in a van, with Iraqi license plates which was driven by another man and parked some 100 metres from the spot of the attack, said Mrs. Janabi.

According to Mrs. Janabi and other

sources: — Mr. Janabi, a Shiite Muslim, once worked at Iraq's Osirak nuclear plant near Baghdad which was mostly destroyed in a raid by Israeli warplanes in 1981. He continued to work with the Iraqi Nuclear Energy Commission until 1986, when he was transferred to the Ministry of Military Industrialisation.

— Mr. Janabi arrived in Amman in early November on a month-long vacation but he did not intend to go back to Iraq since he was offered a "teaching" job at a "nuclear institute" in Libya. The name of the organisation was not immediately available.

— The family stayed with Mr. Janabi's in-laws in Jabal Hussein. Mr. Janabi applied for a non-immigrant visa to the United Kingdom on Nov. 15. The application was being processed as is the routine for Western embassies accepting visa requests from Iraqi nationals.

— "We wanted to visit my brother who lives in Manchester before proceeding to Libya," Mrs. Janabi said. Mrs. Janabi, however, denied that her husband had "defected" and fled Iraq.

— "We travelled legally with our passports with permission from the government," she said.

An Iraqi embassy official accused the Israeli secret service, Mossad, of assassinating Mr. Janabi "to set back Iraq's development."

— "Assassination is the classic means of Mossad to eliminate Iraq and other Arab experts in various fields," said the official, who preferred anonymity. "No doubt Mossad is behind this killing also."

The official argued that documents removed by United Nations inspectors from various Iraqi offices in the course of implementing the U.N. resolution which ended the Gulf war last year contained the names and details of experts employed by the

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U.N. creating 'daunting precedent' in Somalia

NAIROBI (R) — By intervening in anarchy in Somalia, the United Nations is creating a daunting precedent, according to a senior political analyst said Tuesday.

"In Somalia, the people have been given a chance to solve their problems but have failed. The U.N. intervention is correct but should concentrate on humanitarian aspects," Nairobi University's Peter Wanyande said in an interview.

Mr. Wanyande said given the precedent of intervening U.N. action in Somalia, the United Nations should use the same justification to intervene militarily in Liberia and in former Yugoslavia.

Referring to statements by the U.N. secretary-general that the world body may establish a "transitional authority" in Somalia if rival warlords failed to halt their murderous reign, analysts said such a step should be a last resort.

"That should be the last resort as the action tends to be seen as a violation of a country's sovereignty," Mr. Wanyande said.

"When does one draw the line that this sort of action should be taken? After all, the actions of the U.N. largely reflect policies of the more powerful nations in the world body. These nations could use this precedent for their own ends," said a Zimbabwe-based expert on international affairs.

The U.N. says deployment of the more than 30,000-strong U.S.-led multinational force in Somalia is aimed at ensuring that food aid reaches an estimated 1.5 million people threatened with starvation.

No-one knows what will happen when this primary task is completed but the U.S. intends to withdraw the bulk of its forces to hand over to United Nations peacekeepers.

Distribution of the aid has been all but halted by looting and fighting between Somalia's rival warlords who took over the poor country in 1991 after toppling dictator Mohammad Siad Barre.

More than 300,000 Somalis have already died and more than one million people are threatened with starvation.

Liberia, like Somalia, has been plunged into anarchy since the ouster by rebels of military strongman Samuel Doe two years ago. Former Yugoslavia is in the grip of civil war.

"The United Nations should really have long acted to bring about peace in Liberia and the former Yugoslavia. Now that it has intervened in Somalia, there will be immense pressure for it to do so and (it has to) be seen to be applying an even hand in similar situations," Mr. Wanyande said.

Foreign aid workers in Kenya said once the United Nations was able to move food to starving Somalis, an even greater task faced it: Ensuring reconstruction of the country started without delay.

"The humanitarian aspect of this operation is only a first step. The international community has to immediately begin to mobilise billions of dollars that will be needed to build Somalia's ruined infrastructure and the economy," one said.

"Discussions are currently taking place involving rich nations to see if this money can be found. But if you consider that we have been begging all along to feed the Somalis, it will be that much more difficult to raise the money."

As well as reconstruction, the international community will need to mount a costly operation to repatriate and resettle nearly a million Somali refugees.

Bombs found on convoy to north Iraq

ANKARA (R) — Six bombs were found on U.N. food trucks bound for Iraqi Kurds and the United Nations will demand an explanation from Baghdad, a U.N. official said Tuesday.

Edmond Cain, the U.N. representative in Ankara, said six bombs had been discovered Monday attached to six lorries in a 52-truck relief convoy which had just left Iraqi-controlled territory on its way to Kurdish-held northern Iraq.

One of the bombs had been placed under a driver's seat and others under front bumpers or tarpaulins. None exploded.

It was the second attack on a U.N. convoy in eight days. On Nov. 29 six bombs went off under U.N. trucks which had just completed the run from southeast Turkey to the Kurdish-held city of Erbil through Iraqi-controlled territory.

Mr. Cain said the latest incident would hold up the flow of badly-needed food and fuel for at least one day.

"We will be assessing the situation and tightening security before proceeding," he told Reuters.

Mr. Cain said his counterpart in Baghdad, Richard Foran, would formally ask the Iraqi government for an explanation.

At present, U.N. convoys are accompanied through Iraqi-held territory by U.N. civilian officials rather than U.N. guards.

Kurdish representatives based in Ankara accused the Iraqi government of planting the bombs. They said another explosive device had been found in a telephone in the governor of Erbil's office Monday and had been defused.

Western relief workers say the Iraqi government is trying to disrupt deliveries of relief supplies to the mainly Kurdish north, which it has been blockading for more than one year.

"It's another turn of the wrench," said one relief worker, who asked not to be named.

Tantawi says Iran biggest threat to Egypt's security

CAIRO (AP) — Iran's presence in Sudan is the biggest threat to Egypt's security, the Defence Ministry said in a message published Tuesday.

General Hussein Tantawi said Sudan harbours about 25 camps, established with Iran's help, to train Muslim extremists for "terrorist" acts in Egypt.

He also said that Iran was trying to spread its influence to the Red Sea by establishing a military base in eastern Sudan, which overlooks the sea.

Egypt has been accusing Iran since last August of opening "terrorist" camps in Sudan, Egypt's southern neighbour, and aiding Muslim extremists with arms and money to destabilise the Cairo government.

Gen. Tantawi was the first top official to give a number for the alleged camps.

Iran and Sudan have denied the Egyptian charges. Sudanese officials suggested that Egypt send an inspection team to ascertain that no "terrorist" training camps exist on Sudanese territory.

Gen. Tantawi spoke in a message addressed to a meeting of political researchers at Cairo University. The government-owned newspaper Al-Ahram published a summary Tuesday.

It quoted Gen. Tantawi as saying Iran "constitutes the most serious threat to Egypt. Its policies and actions run counter to Egyptian and Arab national security."

President Hosni Mubarak last month urged Iran to desist from attempts to impose its hegemony on small Arab states in the Gulf region. He said Egypt would defend these states if necessary.

Mr. Mubarak's charge in a parliamentary speech sparked a war of words with Iran. Iranian leaders and media heaped abuse on Mr. Mubarak, calling him a mercenary and a "wretched and disgraced leader."

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Qatar underlines Gulf security

DOHA (AP) — The emir of Qatar Tuesday underscored the importance of security in the oil-rich Gulf, a statement widely seen as indicating willingness to settle his border dispute with Saudi Arabia amicably.

"We have always believed in the indivisibility of security and stability in the Gulf region, where the solidarity of its peoples remains an undeniable fact of history," Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani said in an address to the consultative council.

The 30-member council is an appointed body with members from all leading families that the emir consults for advice. Without mentioning Saudi Arabia by name, the emir pledged to carry on striving for "fostering brotherly ties between our peoples."

Arab diplomatic sources interpreted the speech as an expression of readiness to come to terms with Saudi Arabia over the border dispute.

Two people were killed in a Sept. 30 clash on the border between Saudi Arabia and Qatar, a small peninsular nation jutting into the Gulf.

Qatar said its border post was attacked by Saudi soldiers. The Saudis said the clash involved desert bedouins — not soldiers — and actually took place inside Saudi Arabia. There was no independent account of the clash.

In protest, Qatar has boycotted ministerial meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The council groups Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman in an 11-year-old collective defence and economic integration pact.

Sheikh Khalifa is expected to boycott a council summit scheduled for Dec. 21 in Abu Dhabi, largely because of his difficulties with the Saudis.

Qatar has suspended a 1965 border pact dating from the British colonial era and demanded negotiations over the border.

The Saudis have stressed adherence to the pact but called for a joint invitation to international experts to demarcate the border.

Turning to Qatar's economy, the emir alluded to large-scale projects aimed at harnessing the North Dome offshore gas field.

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Yacoub Hayati, a lawyer by profession, said he was looking forward to "shouldering the dangerous responsibility that could shape the future of Kuwait."

Three pro-government deputes won seats in the one-year committee. One member of the liberal opposition, Abdullah Al Nibari, and another opposition deputy, Yacoub Hayati, also are on the committee.

Mr. Hayati was a member of the 1985 legislature that was dissolved by the emir. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, for sharp criticism of the government.

"I don't expect much of this committee," Abdul Latif Al Duaij, a columnist for Al Qabas, told the Associated Press. "It is rumoured that there is a deal between the Islamists and the government that promised them more Islamic laws if they go easy on the invasion file."

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Kuwaiti panel to probe Iraqi invasion

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait's first post-war parliament Tuesday elected a committee to investigate the Iraqi invasion of the emirate. It included both Islamic opposition and pro-government politicians.

The opposition-dominated legislature decided last week to form a fact-finding committee with the power of referring any case of negligence in the August 1990 invasion to the judiciary.

The decision was seen as a compromise between the legislative and executive authorities. Opposition leaders wanted an investigation committee with the power to impeach ministers and military commanders.

Investigating the government's failure to anticipate the Iraqi invasion, the lack of preparation for it and the mishandling of public money during the after the occupation were the hottest issues in the Oct. 5 parliamentary elections.

The nine-member committee includes four Islamic deputies and their allies, among them Deputy Speaker Saleh Al Fadhah, and Ahmad Belir and Ismail Al Shatti.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Hizbollah dismisses Obeid call

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah (P) Monday dismissed an appeal by one of its clerics held the release of captured Israeli pilot Ron Arad. She Qassem, the group's deputy secretary-general, said in that Hizbollah cleric Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid's "brothers in Lebanon" to release Arad was made one from his Israeli captors. "The talk attributed to the group's deputy secretary-general, Sheikh Qassem, who added that it was an attempt to 'blackmail' Hizbollah. Sheikh Qassem said Hizbollah's two Israeli servicemen but not Arad, who has not been since his plane was downed over South Lebanon in 1986, in an interview broadcast on the U.S. network CBS, said about Arad: 'as I understand it, we are going to be released until the other one is released which says Sheikh Obeid was involved in, 'territory hostage-taking until his capture, regards the cleric captive and wants him to be among the last freed in a for Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon."

French court rejects boycott comp

ORLEANS, France (R) — A French court Monday charges against a local chamber of commerce that it French law by complying with the Arab League's economy of Israel. The charges had been drawn up against the commerce of the Loiret department (region), south and of which Orleans is the main city, on a complaint by one of France's main anti-racist organisations. The documents issued by the chamber of commerce to working with Arab countries and testifying the connections with Israel, or people residing there, violate law banning economic discrimination on racial, ethnic grounds. The court dismissed the charges on grounds there were no identified victims in the case that it was Quentin, LICRA's lawyer, said the organisation would verdict. The Damascus-based Arab Boycott Office national firms dealing with the Arab World to prove it ties with Israel.

Gunmen kill three Turkish policemen

ANKARA (R) — Gunmen killed three policemen and other people in an attack on a bus carrying police officers families in the Mediterranean city of Antalya, state Tuesday. There was no immediate claim of responsibility Monday attack but similar assaults on police in other been carried out by the Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) separate incidents, Turkey's separatist Kurds killed six attacks in southeastern Turkey, security sources said. Including a woman and a child, were killed and 12 others when rebels from the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) minibuses in Sirnak province and sprayed the passengers after forcing them out. PKK rebels killed two employees educational department in Hazzo town after abducting a bus on Sunday. The bodies of the two found on Monday. More than 5,200 people have died since 1984 in the PKK's armed fight for an independent region.

Iran rejects U.N. human rights critic

NICOSIA (R) — Iran Monday denounced U.N. criticism human rights record as interference in its affairs and said laws were unchangeable. The head of Iran's judiciary Mohammad Yazdi, said a resolution passed by the U.N. on social and humanitarian issues on Friday was "unbiased." Passing "this resolution is a sort of interference country's sovereignty," he added, in remarks quoted Radio. The committee accused Iran of excessive torture, a poor administration of justice, discrimination Bahai community and restrictions on free speech. "Defects on which the Islamic Republic of Iran is based changed," Ayatollah Yazdi said. The Foreign Ministry statement issued on Sunday and quoted by Iran's state news agency, rejected the resolution as a document based presumptions stemming from biased claims and false information.

Turkey signs \$1.1 b deal with Sikorsky

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey has signed a \$1.1 billion Sikorsky aircraft, a subsidiary of U.S. United Technologies for the purchase and joint production of 95 Blackhawk helicopters, a senior official said Tuesday. The deal involves purchase of 45 Blackhawk helicopters from the U.S. to manufacture and assembly of 50 others in Turkey. The defence industry undersecretary official said the 45 to be purchased will be wholly-financed through loans from the U.S. Exim Bank and the rest from commercial sources.

Turkish products

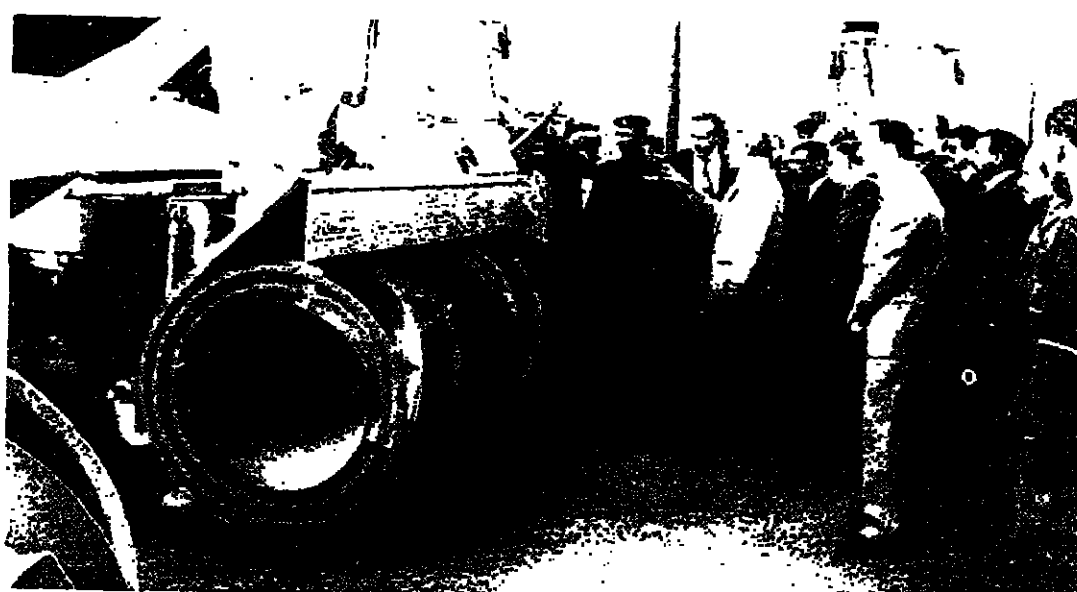
Home News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1992 3

Premier surveys equipment for the winter Government backs Arab Orthodox Community

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker today visited the Ministry of Public Works workshops where he inspected new machinery and equipment to be used in snow clearing operations in the coming winter.

Mr. Zeid was briefed about the details of the new equipment and the department's readiness to deal with severe weather conditions. Officials at the workshops said the equipment will be distributed to various public works departments throughout the kingdom.



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker in a demonstration Tuesday of a new snow clearing vehicle (Petra photo)

The prime minister expressed confidence with the services rendered by the public works ministry and the great role it plays in dealing with winter situations.

Mr. Zeid said the ministry had drawn up a comprehensive plan for dealing with any situations that might arise during this winter season. He pointed out that the ministry, in preparation for the winter, has bought new equipment at a cost of JD 1,353,379, including complete units to remove snow, with a capacity of 100 tonnes per hour. The new equipment can open a two metre road of a width of 2.5

metres every hour, Mr. Srour said. He also said the ministry bought snow sweepers, which can be fitted on the ministry's vehicles. These sweepers will be distributed to various public works departments throughout Jordan.

The minister also said that his ministry has adopted a wireless service to enhance the efficiency of its staff and improve the per-

formance of the public works cadres. The new system includes 90 wireless telecommunication sets to be fitted on cars and other vehicles, as well as 30 sets carried by hand. The ministry's preparations also include the establishment of operation rooms at the ministry and the various public works departments. The minister pointed out that 44 working

By Alean Bannayan and Elia Nasrallah

AMMAN — The Arab Orthodox community in Jordan and Palestine Tuesday won the backing of the Jordanian government in its drive to safeguard holy places and Orthodox estate in Jerusalem and the other parts of the occupied Arab lands.

"I bless your efforts which aim at protecting these holy places and estates in the face of attempts to sell and lease these lands and I voice the Jordanian government's support for your blessed endeavours to enhance the Arab Orthodox community's steadfastness in the face of hostile designs," said Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker in a message to the community's fifth general conference, which was held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman Tuesday.

The prime minister wished the conference success in its efforts.

Similar message of support came from Palestine President Yasser Arafat, who urged the Christian community to unite its ranks in the face of the Israeli drive to Judaize Arab territory.

Speakers at the one-day conference accused the Greek Orthodox leadership of selling church estate to the Israelis and urged the Arab community to unite their ranks to deal with the situation.

"It is regrettable to see the Greek Orthodox patriarchate selling and leasing church property to the enemy," said Marwan Toubasi, head of the executive

committee of the Orthodox community in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"This is very serious indeed. This practice should stop immediately. It is an act of treachery against the Palestinian homeland," said Mr. Toubasi in his working paper reviewed by 150 delegates taking part in the conference.

He said that church property should be utilised for the benefit of the Arab Orthodox community.

"The Greek patriarchate has recently sold whole districts, including Rahavia district in West Jerusalem and earlier sold the Al Musallabah district where the Israeli parliament (Knesset) was erected," Mr. Toubasi said.

He said that the Greeks also sold church land that was later transformed into a world Zionist centre and conducted land exchange transactions with the Israelis who had seized the St. John Monastery.

"Furthermore, the Greek church leadership allowed the Israeli authorities to seize part of the estate around the Mar Elias Monastery near Jerusalem which the Israelis used to open roads and to set up Jewish settlements," he said.

According to Mr. Toubasi the Greek church leadership also leased a community cemetery in Jaffa to an Israeli firm that later used it to build homes for the new Jewish immigrants.

Reviewing the history of the Christian Community in Palestine, Mr. Toubasi noted that the

holy places in Palestine, the church and Orthodox community estate had been always under the control of the Arab church leaders until the start of the Ottoman rule which allowed Greek priests and monks to have the upper hand.

Mr. Toubasi said the state of affairs continued throughout the Ottoman rule.

"It was only under the British mandate in Palestine that the Arab community rose in force to try to assume their own affairs and take over of the church and church estate, but to no avail," he said.

It was under the Jordanian government, during the unity of the two banks in 1958, that the Jordanian Parliament passed a law granting rights to the Arab community in handling their own affairs through membership in a church council estate in Palestine. Under the Israeli occupation rule, he said, the Greek church leadership ignored rights of the Arab community with the result that "we now find Arab Orthodox schools and other centres in dilapidated conditions with the level of education deterioration to a dangerous level."

The one day conference, held under the slogan "Towards a Comprehensive Orthodox Renaissance," addressed a host of issues related to the means of protecting Orthodox real estate and holy shrines in the occupied territories in view of recent illegal leasing or selling of the church property by the Greek Orthodox

Church.

Working papers at the conference dealt with means of safeguarding holy places, the creation of a special fund to promote the cause of the Arab Orthodox Community and amendments to Jordanian laws and regulations regarding the Arab Orthodox Community in Jordan and occupied Palestine.

Dr. Raouf Abu Jaber, chairman of the Arab Orthodox Society in Jordan and Arab Jerusalem Governor Rawhi Al Khatib stressed the importance of safeguarding church property as it has been preserved and guarded ever since the days of Caliph Omar Ben Al Khatib, who gave the Christian community guarantees of safeguarding their religious sites and shrines.

According to Dr. Abu Jaber, the Arab Orthodox Community numbers around 200,000, but lacks coordination with the Greek patriarch who administers church property.

"We think the issues pertaining to Arab rights and interests should be closely coordinated to benefit all," he said. The Arab Orthodox community has had a leading role in the community life of Jordan and Palestine throughout the ages. We seek to preserve that role.

Mr. Toubasi also underlined the importance of safeguarding the centuries-old heritage and property of the Orthodox church, and called for close coordination among all concerned parties so that serious work could be undertaken in this regard.

Jordan presents water needs London conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan took part in an international conference on water resources in London. Delegates presented their views on Jordan's needs, according to a press release by the British Embassy in Amman.

Mr. Ghazzawi, an adviser at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, attended the conference, extended the Kingdom's legal, political and commercial policies on water management, fair distribution of water supplies and other issues related to water resources. He also presented the multilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks in Rome and Vienna.

Mr. Ghazzawi was quoted by the British Embassy as saying that the London conference offered him the opportunity to present an accurate picture on Jordan's water needs.

The conference, which was attended by 50 delegates from 12 Arab and foreign countries was organised by the School of Oriental and African Studies at London University.

During his stay in London, Mr. Ghazzawi met a number of British government officials to discuss water projects like that being implemented in Qaa Disi which is being financed by the British government.

Private schools warned to abide by the rules

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government has to adopt punitive measures against private schools for what is considered by the Private Educational Sector Association as a constant abuse of the Ministry of Education's regulations, according to Mustafa Abed Rabbo. "The association will refrain from performing its duties towards these institutions as of Saturday," if the regulations are not implemented, he said in an interview with the Jordan Times Tuesday.

The association sent a memorandum of protest Monday to the prime minister, the minister of education and the Lower House of Parliament. The memorandum urges the concerned authorities to put an end to the different kinds of abuses exercised by private educational institutions against their employees and demand them to promulgate a law in which equal and just treatment to teachers are fully met.

According to Mr. Abed Rabbo, conditions are going from bad to worse, and the "fact that no one is protesting against the schools' constant violations and their abuse of power is what renders the situation impossible

to handle at present without governmental interference."

No reaction was registered from the concerned parties, but sources at the Ministry of Education say that the demands are under study and a response would be issued soon.

"Some teachers get a salary at JD 90 per month for a work that is worth JD 50," said Mr. Abed Rabbo. "At present, there are some cases of young teachers looking for work experience for any amount of money or simply to fill their time, they would accept the job at any rate and be satisfied with JD 50 and sometimes some would go for JD 30."

Some private schools and kindergartens have also their way of turning around the law by signing two contracts at the same time with the teacher, one at a low salary, which is considered the real salary the teacher gets, and another one which abides by the ministry's formal regulations for inspection's purposes.

"All contracts should be done through the association to make sure that further abuses do not take place," Mr. Abed Rabbo insisted. "The government has to take the initiative and include all the concerned parties to find a comprehensive solution for employees."

Jordan, Tunisia to forge closer links

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan and Tunisia over the past few days have been discussing measures designed to further facilitate the exchange of agricultural products and to launch joint ventures.

The talks were conducted by Minister of Supply Mohammad Saqqaf and a Tunisian team led by Minister of national economy, Mr. Al Sadekrabe. The two ministers reviewed bilateral economic relations and discussed means of further freeing trade exchanges from restrictions.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the two sides agreed to exchange lists of agricultural products of which each side has a surplus with a view to studying the prospect of importing them from each other, at world market rates. Petra said that the more was considered as one step towards further increasing the volume of trade between the two countries.

Jordan, which normally imports olive oil from Tunisia will this year place no orders because it is presently self sufficient, Mr. Saqqaf said.

U.N. team conducts research on Palestinian refugee situation

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif Tuesday received a United Nations (U.N.) fact-finding mission who are researching the situation of Palestinian refugees.

Official figures indicate that the number of registered Palestinian refugees now stands at 2,648,707 with nearly 1.01 million living in Jordan.

The figures were presented to a U.N. fact finding mission led by Mustafa Tleili who arrived in Amman Monday evening on a two-day visit.

The number of refugees made homeless as a result of the 1948 war was estimated then at 600,000, but the number has multiplied over the years as the Palestinian land remains occupied. Said head of the ministry's department for Palestinian affairs Adel Irshaid who met with the U.N. team in his office Tuesday.

According to Mr. Tleili the U.N. team is in Amman in order to acquaint themselves with the progress in the Arab Israeli peace

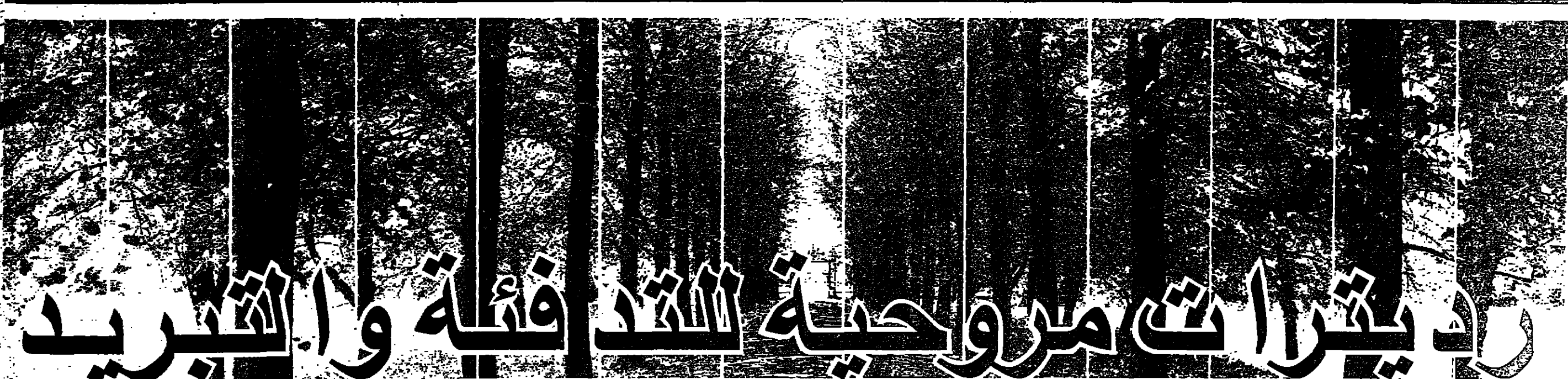
Grant extended to families of the intifida

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Popular Committee for the support of the Palestinian intifada has decided to extend JD 250,000 in grants to a number of charitable societies in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

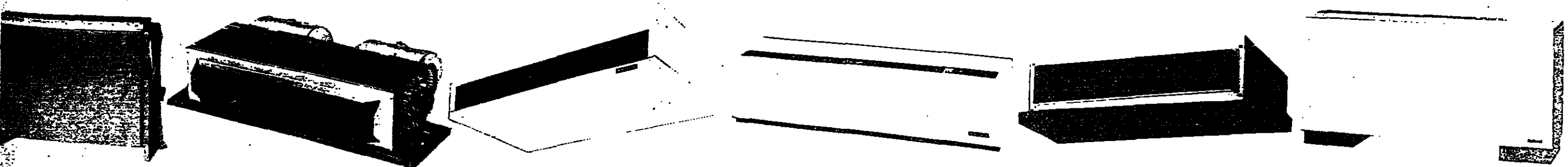
The contribution which was made on the eve of the sixth anniversary of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation, aims at assisting these societies in implementing their charity programmes and supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people on their national soil, according to secretary of the committee Mamdouh Al Abbadi. He said the committee had extended JD 500,000 to charity societies in the occupied territories over the past two years. The committee, he said, will continue to offer assistance to the families of Palestinian martyrs killed during intifada activities at an average of JD 1,000 to every martyr's family.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition by Mona Saudi at Al Balqa Art Gallery in Al Fuhels.
- Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Turki Abdul Amic at the Alk Art Gallery.
- Exhibition of paintings and silkscreen by three artists from Gaza Fayed Al Hasani, Kamel Al Mughanni and Laila Shawa at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
- Art exhibition by artist Ghassan Abu Laban at Phoenix Art Gallery.
- Sculpture exhibition by artist Ahmad Saad Mohlalat at the Royal Cultural Centre.



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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4
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Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Set the people free

IT IS not only the fate of Jordanian political detainees still languishing in Syrian jails for several decades that is of concern to Jordan but also the fate of Syrian prisoners of conscience incarcerated in violation of the minimum respect for human rights norms and standards. And it is not only Syria's record on such issues that attracts our attention and concern but also the entire file of human rights across the rest of the Arab World.

By and large the Arab record on respecting civil and political rights is abysmal. International accounts paint a rather gloomy picture about how Arab governments fare on internationally binding human rights principles and guidelines.

It goes without saying that Arab malaise and weakness are attributed basically to the lack of pluralistic democracy in most Arab countries. In spite of the continuous rhetoric about the need to incorporate multi-party democracy and introduce minimum human rights standards into the practices and legislations of most of the Arab countries, the gap between theory and practice is still growing by leaps and bounds.

The belated release of former Syrian President Nouridine Al Atasi only shortly before his death from illness that developed during his 22 years in prison has brought to focus the issue of political prisoners in Syria and elsewhere across the Arab World. To the credit of Damascus, thousands of political prisoners were released early this year under an amnesty declared on the occasion of the reelection of President Hafez Al Assad. Yet such measures simply do not go far enough to eradicate the phenomenon of arbitrary arrest and detention in Syria. Damascus needs to consolidate its human rights record by first freeing the rest of the political prisoners still languishing in its cells and then by making a clear and unequivocal commitment that henceforth no-one would be arrested or detained without the due process of the law taking its course.

Being essentially a regional power, it is incumbent on Syria to show the way for greater and deeper democracy on the basis of multi-party parliamentary system. Syria holds a special place in the Arab Order. Arabs everywhere look up to that country for charting a new path towards development both material and intellectual.

To be fair, other Arab centres of power need also to move more effectively and forcefully in the direction of full democracy. Until such time, when most of the Arab states have gone democratic, Arab woes and suffering will continue to languish in the Arab milieu everywhere.

Jordan has shown the way for introducing liberty and self-determination to the Arab masses. It has worked well for the country in spite of the repeated errors and trials associated with the process of democratisation. We are sure democracy can work well also for the rest of our neighbours.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE PALESTINIAN intifada today enters its sixth year, with the Palestinian people more determined than ever before to secure their freedom from Israeli occupation and with the Israelis more confused about the means to end the uprising, said Al Ra'i daily Tuesday. The children of Palestine, using stones and knives, proved they are stronger than the formidable war machine, of the strongest power in the Middle East by maintaining the longest popular resistance in modern history, the paper said. Israeli military leaders, said the paper, start off their tasks in the Arab territory by launching atrocities and using brutal force to crush the uprising, promising the Israelis that the intifada will soon be over; despite the fact that this has been the practice over the past five years, no Israeli government to date has been able to put down the uprising. The military leaders go and their tasks end without being able to crush the resistance that has been growing stronger every day in the face of numerous odds and despite the conspiracies concocted by various circles against the Palestinian people in support of Israel, the paper added. It said that with the start of the sixth year in the life of the intifada we can say that the defeat of a nation can never come through military victory of its enemies, but rather if this nation gave way to capitulation and surrender. It said, that despite the lapse of 25 years of occupation, the Palestinians proved they are determined to overcome Israel's arrogance and use all their power to defeat the Israeli occupation.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday came out in support of the dispatch of U.S. troops to Somalia, noting that this move came after the Arab and Muslim World has failed to do anything to end the tragedy. The mission of the U.S. troops in Somalia is quite different from the one they carried out in the Gulf because in Somalia they have no oil interests to protect, said Sultan Al Hattab. The Arabs and Muslims were given sufficient time to take action and end the starvation of the Somali people and end their factional fighting, but they have failed to achieve this goal except sending limited amounts of food supplies to the dying people, the writer pointed out. No condemnation over the dispatching of foreign troops to Somalia can ever save the dying people from their fate, he said, and what is needed is quick action to ensure that food supplies reach their destination. The Arab and Muslim foreign ministers, who recently met in Saudi Arabia, discussed means of arming the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the face of Serb attacks that lifted no figure to ensure aid to the Somali people, he continued.

Economic Forum

The growth of GDP and GNP

DURING THE last two weeks, two Jordanian economic achievements were unveiled: Jordan's gross domestic product (GDP) is purported to have grown at a real rate of 12 per cent during 1992 and the domestic revenues of the government for 1992 have risen to the level of its current expenditures and they, moreover, financed a certain portion, probably 40 per cent, of capital expenditures. Provided there are no statistical errors, especially with respect to GDP growth rate, such achievements are resounding by all standards. Let us scan these figures.

GDP is one of the basic aggregates of the national accounts. To measure it, the national accountant indulges in a vast process of estimating the value of each good and service produced in the country in any given year. The process involves so many assumptions, and certain types of information are passed to the national accountant only belatedly while other types are refined or adjusted constantly. This is why national account aggregates involve wide margins of what technicians call "statistical errors" and are sometimes changed after the elapse of many years.

The above technical considerations make it imperative to take national account parameters with a certain degree of reservation. However, in the particular case of the above-mentioned phenomenal GDP growth rate, this reservation is really not important because even if the statistical error is as wide as 50 per cent, we will still be left with 6 per cent growth in real terms, which remains

remarkable as well.

However, the more significant parameter is the growth rate of Jordan's gross national product (GNP) which refers to that part of goods and services produced in 1992, which belongs to Jordanians, while GDP measures output of all goods and services produced in Jordan whether they belong to Jordanians or non-Jordanians such as Arab employees (see Economic Forum, Jordan Times, May 20, 1992). It is the growth rate of GNP, in real terms, which only and eventually matters, as it is the indicator that shows whether Jordanians became better off and, if so, by how much. Data on national accounts are published only a long time after the end of the year; any estimates available now, no matter how rough, are accessible only to policy-makers who are keen to publicise the spectacular growth rate of GDP. Among other observers, we are eager to know the growth rate of our GNP and not only that of GDP.

And there is one very important reason for this eagerness: GNP encompasses remittances of Jordanians working abroad; GDP does not. In the post-Gulf war also, it is well known that these remittances dropped considerably. Balance of payment figures indicate that these remittances climaxed in 1991 at JD796 million, from JD406 million and 358 million in 1990 and 1989 respectively. In the period 1986-90, they averaged JD366 million. The terrible conclusion is starkly evident: if the remittances of Jordanians

working abroad are to normalise in 1992 at their pre-level, around 16 per cent would be wiped out of any extra GDP. In other words, GDP must grow at 16 per cent in order to make up for the drop in GNP emanating from the sharp remittances. Of course, we are told that GDP rose at a rate of 16 per cent in nominal terms (4 per cent inflation plus 12 per cent real growth). This means that GNP would hardly, in 1992, on the assumption that remittances of Jordanians dropped in 1992 only to their normal level before 1991, know very well that this is a very optimistic assumption. Remittances must have fallen far beyond that level. A conceivable drop in the remittances of expatriate workers because the former are in the range of JD50 million annum, so that wiping them out altogether will not be the picture.

Unfortunately, these figures do paint a gloomy picture; they suggest that Jordanians have not become better off even with a 12 per cent real growth in GDP.

There is a very good chance for the real growth rate of GDP to be negative. What is needed now is for our policymakers to estimate the real growth rate of Jordan's gross national product rather than dwelling on that of GDP and thus save themselves to dangerous complacency.

Operation Balkan Storm: Here's a plan

By George Kenney
and
Michael J. Dugan

WASHINGTON — Here's how the Balkan crisis could unfold.

It is late January 1993. President Bill Clinton decides it is in the American security interest to oppose Serbian aggression in the Balkans with force, in particular to permit the Bosnians to defend themselves. His advisers believe there is a third option beyond the choices President George Bush claimed he faced — either doing nothing or sending a hundreds of thousands of ground troops. Mr. Clinton's advisers develop a three-step plan based on the use of American competitive advantages.

The first step is coalition building. The U.S. should not act unilaterally — that was the mistake we made in Vietnam — yet the U.N. Security Council is deadlocked on the use of force, as is NATO. A coalition is possible only through ad-hoc arrangements. Three allies, Great Britain, France and Italy, must be included; they provide staging bases and a limited number of air, naval and ground forces which support a U.S.-dominated air power operation. The coalition arms and trains Bosnian forces, who conduct unconventional operations on the ground to recover their country.

President Clinton persuades several allies to agree to this plan. Here, Russia is a key player. Were Russia to disapprove at the start, the coalition would still keep it fully informed, while leaving the door open for cooperation. There is reason to believe Russia could be talked into participating: it has a natural interest

in being seen as a player on the world stage in this peace-making effort.

The second step is insuring coordination with United Nations operations and deliveries of humanitarian relief. U.N. personnel become Serbian targets so the U.N. suspends its convoys. The U.N. operations are thus subordinated to larger war aims. But with coalition support, the

armed Bosnians are as able as the U.N. to deliver aid. In addition, the United States drops food packages on refugee areas from planes flying above ground fire. Bosnian forces create "safe haven" areas, which help prevent the depopulation of Bosnia and save tens of thousands of lives. The havens also keep hundreds of thousands of refugees out of Western Europe.

The third step is active belligerency, in two phases: first, destroying Serbian forces in Bosnia and, second, using concentrated force against Serbia itself.

In phase one, the U.S. uses AWACS aircraft and F-15 fighters to establish visible allied air supremacy over all the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Next, Serbian heavy artillery and armored units in Bosnia are

prime targets for air strikes. British and French infiltration teams deploy anti-battery radar to locate Serbian artillery positions near areas under siege.

From bases in Italy and from one carrier in the Adriatic, U.S. F-15s, F-16s, F-18s and F-111s systematically neutralise the Serbian artillery units with precision-guided bombs and missiles. Using the Joint Surveillance Target

solve by sending new Bosnia from bases in Montenegro, by conflict in Croatia, as a diversionary war in any combination of

Such action would phase two: U.S. Tomahawk missiles, trees of gravity in instruct Serbian troops their barracks; if they track their moves JSTARS and hit the strikes. Technology fiber strands allows L-useless Serbia's elec without destroying once hostilities cease be restored.

Other technology turn petroleum product fineries and storage useless jelly, without the facilities. We day communication inside the same time, we Serbian air waves intentions to end the the Serbian people.

That is a war it cannot win.

Such an operation involve huge forces: be a joint Air Force tion of moderate diff U.S. would need, ap one carrier battle gro out 60 aircraft in th plus 3 AWACS, 1 JST KC-135 tankers, 24 F-15s, 18 F-111s ap with assorted stan precision-guided wea

The operation, w free, but United Sta blood and treasure modest compared with Bosnian trauma. More are indications that Saudi Arabia would consider paying a share of these costs. would also likely co A war in the Balk establish U.S. leaden post-cold war world in Operation Desert St could.

George Kenney is a co the Carnegie Endowm international. Peace. Dugan is a retired general and former chief of Staff. The printed from The Times.



Israelis keep Gaza Strip under siege

(Continued from page 1)

wing Likud Party, said the incident in the Gaza underscored his belief that "we need to get out of there."

He pointed out that in the 25 years Israel has occupied the squalid Strip, the population has mushroomed from 250,000 people to some 800,000 today.

"The region is in a terrible economic situation and people are living in impossible physical conditions," Mr. Arens said. "We do not have the economic assets to change this situation. Therefore, in my opinion, our being there has no benefit."

Foreign Minister Peres was more cautious, telling Israel Radio that a withdrawal must be negotiated.

"I do not rule out that sometime there will be such a possibility of unilateral withdrawal, but what is preferable is a bilateral agreement," he said.

He said the timing was likely to be "when the other side, at least some of the residents, will be interested in quiet."

He noted that Israeli and Palestinian negotiators at the U.S.-backed peace talks in Washington were discussing limited self-rule for the occupied territories.

Palestinian lawyer Freih Abu Medeen, who chairs the Gaza Bar Association, told the Associated Press that resistance was the normal response to occupation.

"The Israelis must admit that the occupation is the source of the violence," Mr. Abu Medeen said. "Now there is no hope for the Palestinians."

The closure, which the army said was for an "indefinite period," could exacerbate economic problems among Gaza residents, who are dependent on Israel for jobs. Almost daily, some 30,000 Gaza workers enter Israel.

In occupied Jerusalem, Israeli and Palestinian groups issued re-

ports critical of the government's human rights record in the occupied territories.

The Israeli group B'tselem said that 186 children had been killed by Israeli security forces over the past five years. Undercover units, often disguised in Arab dress, have killed 110 Palestinians, it said.

"We think it is an extremely serious phenomenon that after five years and after all the experience, the (Israeli army) still cannot disperse a demonstration where the security of its men is not in danger without the use of lethal weapons," said Yuval Ginbar, who prepared the report for B'tselem.

A report by the Palestine Human Rights Information Centre was especially critical of prison conditions. "Interrogations are characterised by intimidation, physical and psychological violence and threats of deportation, long detention without trial, or killing," it said.

"Man's most basic right is the right to life. To our great regret, there was no improvement under the current government," Mr. Ginbar told a news conference.

The number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces was up by 20 per cent in 1992 from the previous year, breaking a trend of steady decline. Of 116 Palestinians killed in the uprising's fifth year, 41 were killed since August, B'tselem said.

At least 16 were killed during stone-throwing demonstrations where B'tselem enquiries and army statements showed soldiers' lives were not in danger. Five were children.

Since January undercover units have killed 43 Palestinians, 17 since August, B'tselem said, compared to 23 in all of 1991.

The group charged interrogators still routinely tortured Palestinian prisoners. Four prisoners died during or immediately after interrogation in 1992.

Legitimacy and democracy in Jordan

By Faisal Akel Al Fayez

THE stability of any democracy depends not only on economic development, but also upon the effectiveness and the legitimacy of its political system. Effectiveness means actual performance, the extent to which the system satisfies the basic functions of government as most of the population and such groups within it, as big businesses or the armed forces, see them. Legitimacy involves the capacity of the system to engender and maintain the belief that existing political institutions are the most appropriate ones for the society.

A crisis of legitimacy occurs when major groups in the society become unable to have access to the political power as soon as they develop political demands.

Following rapid economic development and the rise in the standard of living, the middle class in a given society, led by the intelligentsia, tends to grow and organise itself. This new class, after gaining economic power, will seek access to political power. When they have access to power then they show loyalty to political institutions. They will accept the legitimacy of the regime and its institutions. Political systems which deny new strata access to power will force some emerging groups to adopt extremist ideologies which could lead to violence and would threaten the political system itself.

A highly effective but illegitimate system, such as a tightly-governed country is, therefore, less stable than regimes which are relatively in-

effective but have a higher degree of legitimacy.

In Jordan, the Hashemite Monarchy as a political institution is unique among other regimes in the region. It has historical legitimacy. The Hashemites are direct descendants of the Prophet Mohammad. This gives them the right to rule. Based on this fact and through the wisdom of our King, the monarchy as a political institution has the loyalty of all groups in the society: Jordanians, Palestinians, Muslims, Christians, Circassians, Armenians, leftists, rightists, etc.

After many years of rapid economic development, increased wealth and education there emerged in Jordan over a period of 30 years, a high level of literacy, a general level of prosperity, social homogeneity, a strong and large middle class, and a lengthy period of peace. This new enlarged middle class, spearheaded by the intelligentsia, had access three years ago to a political institution, the Parliament, through parliamentary elections. In the Parliament all political groups are represented. These groups range from the extreme right to the extreme left, from Muslim Brothers to Communists. With the legalisation of political parties under way access to power will be complete.

So, in addition to historical legitimacy, added now is political legitimacy. The democratic process in Jordan is moving rapidly and steadily. King Hussein's wisdom and political experience has made Jordan an oasis of stability and a model for other countries to follow.

LETTERS

Rumour mill should stop

To the Editor:

I have seen nothing spread faster than rumours in Arab. People seem to be recognised in the streets by their names even better, by their nicknames.

You would be amazed by how much people know about more than you know about yourself! Some names are known to the faces they accompany.

Rumourmongers are so intent on their interpretation, character of a person (according to the rumours, of course) they seem to forget that there are human beings, behind names attributed to them, who could suffer from the projected about them by other people.

Judging people without knowing them is unfair, to say the least. Thinking that you know someone only from rumours is detrimental to a person's character and to your perception of reality. How many times did we meet someone we "knew" others and who turned out to be different, actually were in good, unlike we thought they were?

I think it is about time we realise that there are better things to do than spread rumours about others.

Amal T. Abouhadi,
P.O. Box 35152,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name, preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only on request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of manuscripts.

Features

Two suspects held in Iraqi's killing

(Continued from page 1)

ment in its weapons develop-
ment programmes and the informa-
tion could have been obtained by
read.
one of the Iraqis arrested Monday
identified by sources as Rajai
a taxi-driver who used to ply
Aman-Baghdad route. He was
seized at the Rweishid post on the
border with Iraq.
The second man was not im-
mediately identified, nor was it clear
when he was arrested. But
sources indicated that he was one
of the suspects as the assassin.
The Associated Press quoted Mrs.
Abi as saying that Bakr was a
neighbour of the family in Baghdad
and had telephoned her in Amman

for a meeting which she refused be-
cause she suspected something was
amiss.
The killing comes amid charges by
U.N. officials that Iraqis are not
cooperating with the world body in its
efforts to eliminate Iraq's weapons
programmes. Numerous projects
have been identified and destroyed,
but the U.N. officials say that Iraq
could be withholding information or
misleading inspectors.

Reuters quoted a cousin of Mrs.
Janabi as saying that "Police told us
early today (Tuesday) that the crim-
inals were seized but they did not tell us
who was behind it."

Asa Ahmad Al Janabi told the
agency that police, acting on a tip
from the family, had arrested the taxi
driver.

"Police told us that through the

alestinians urge U.S. to join talks

(Continued from page 1)

rules of the peace process as set
in U.N. resolutions which speak
small withdrawal from the occu-
pied territories in exchange for peace.
The four sets of negotiations,
at talks with Jordan appear to be
making progress. Jordanian Foreign
Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said Sun-
day the talks were proceeding as well
could be expected.
The Israeli-Syrian talks are jam-
med over Syria's demand for a full
withdrawal from the occupied
Golan Heights versus Israel's
demand for a Syrian commit-
ment to sign a full and formal peace
agreement with the Jewish state.

The Israeli-Lebanese talks are de-
pendent to a large extent on what
progress in the talks until Bill
Clinton becomes president in six
weeks.
I think there is a sense of waiting
Clinton on the part of the partici-
pating states. Mr. Harrop told Israel's army
to in an interview broadcast on
Sunday.
I've spoken to all of the Israeli
negotiators before they left, the lead-
ers of the teams. I know they're
prepared to make progress if there is
an opening or an opening to do it,"
Harrop said.

"But there is not a great deal of
optimism that there can be major
steps forward at this time and I regret
this sense of pessimism, but it's
there," he added.

"There is a sense there on the part,
particularly of the Arab negotiators,
that they'd rather wait a while and see
the next American administration."
Israel has asked Egypt to help
persuade the Palestinians not to aban-
don the talks, an Israeli cabinet minis-
ter said.

Israeli Agriculture Minister Yacv
Tsaur spoke to reporters in Cairo after
meeting with Egyptian Foreign minis-
ter Amr Musa.

"We're hoping for the assistance of
Egypt to strengthen the Palestinians
to continue the peace process and to
come to accept the interim agreement
about the self-governing system," he
said.

"Egypt is playing a role to secure
the continuation of the negotiations,"
Mr. Musa told reporters, adding that
he hoped the talks will "accelerate
towards progress and an agreement to
start (Palestinian) self-rule as an in-
terim phase."

Mr. Musa said the peace negotia-
tions should involve two phases.
"What is needed now is limited
progress on agreeing to start the
interim phase, so that there can be
progress in the final negotiations be-
tween the Palestinians and Israel," he
said.

omali leaders pledge

(Continued from page 1)

situation has improved re-
cently.
"The steam seems to have gone
out of the fight," said Rick Grant
the international relief agency
said. "The average Mogadishu
resident has got to be sick of
living in this bombed out rubble
city."
Relief agencies were taking
cautions Tuesday in advance
of the expected dawn arrival of
Marines.
The United Nations Children's

Fund (UNICEF) pulled its four
foreign workers out of north
Mogadishu and sent a memorandum
to employees telling them
not to come to work Wednesday
or Thursday unless summoned in
writing. Other agencies also said
their workers would probably
stay inside those days.

"Tomorrow's not going to be a
day of uncertainty, but it's not
going to be a normal working
day. So let's not pretend it is,"
said Mark Stirling, the head of
UNICEF in Somalia.

driver, the murderer, an Iraqi man,
was arrested," she was quoted as
saying.

She said the driver had telephoned
Mrs. Janabi's an hour before the
murder took place telling her that he
had arrived from Baghdad with \$200
for them from her brother.

"Wafa told the driver she would
see him at 1 o'clock on Monday
because they had to go now to the
Tunisian embassy to get a visa to be
able to go to Libya through Tunis,"
Asa said.

Brotherhood's front gets legalisation

(Continued from page 1)

Mbeideen and Minister of Municipal
Affairs Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat, are
members of the front, officials at the
prime ministry confirmed.

The Islamic Action Front was
formed as a compromise when the
Brotherhood refused to be labelled a
political party. Their status as welfare
society, they felt, was more appropri-

ate.
The Islamic Action Front was
formed as the party to represent the
Brotherhood and independent Islam-
ists. The Brotherhood has had the
status of a welfare society for over 30
years.
The Brotherhood is the fourth party
to win official recognition from the

government, after a new Political
Parties Law took effect Sept. 1.

A row broke out earlier this week
when the Ministry of Interior rejected
applications by the Jordanian Com-
munist Party and the Arab Baath
Socialist Party.

At least six parties and dozens of
political commentators denounced
the move by the Ministry of Interior
as undemocratic.

The leaders of the two parties are
appealing the ministry's decision in
the Higher Court of Justice.

Parliament replies to King's speech

(Continued from page 1)

clear evidence that unemployment is
increasing ... leading to a number of
social phenomena that require deep
assessment."

The developing social situation,
said the Upper House, calls for col-
lective action by the three branches of
government and a national strategic
policy for social development.

Labour, education, health, housing
and environment issues should be the
essence of development policies, the
Upper House said.

"In our view," said the Senate,
"these issues are no less important
than freedom, security and partici-
pation in decision making process." It
warned against the negative social
impact of poverty, growing unem-
ployment and rising crime.

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Al Orthodoxy score big win over Al Ahli to clinch U-22 trophy

By Aileen Baanayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Orthodoxy Tuesday asserted themselves as the undisputed powerhouse of Jordanian basketball as they beat once all-time rivals Al Ahli 90-61 in the final match of the Under-22 Basketball Championship organized by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

Al Ahli had twice beaten Al Orthodoxy in the course of the U-22 championship and therefore no one expected that Al Orthodoxy would win by such a big margin. But as the match progressed Al Orthodoxy successfully widened their 10-point lead to 20 and later to 30-point gap which Al Ahli's frail teamwork could not catch up with, and eventually suffered an unexpected humiliating defeat setting for second place.

Both teams were tied at 9-9 in the sixth minute. Al Orthodoxy, however, took the lead depending on Raed Al Haj in playmaking while Jan Sahlieh and Muntaser Abul Tayyeb scored to give their team its first big lead at 22-10.

Al Orthodoxy's Ziad Nabulsi and Sahlieh alternated at scoring, while Al Ahli's Walid Badran, Ramez Hamoudah and teammates seemed lost as everything seemed to be going wrong for them. Al Ahli's coach asked for a time-out hoping to change the way things were going but Al Ahli lacked concentration, while Al Orthodoxy took advantage of a series of turnovers and loose balls to build a commanding 38-15 lead.

Al Ahli's undisputed star Taimour Al Shamali put up a great effort to score for his



Al Orthodoxy's team

team as his teammates lost chance after chance ending the first half 47-28 for Al Orthodoxy.

Al Orthodoxy continued scoring as Mudar Barakat, Al Haj and Nabulsi widened the gap to 67-34. Al Ahli's Mohammad Al Shamali, not fully recovered from a recent injury, scored a three-pointer, but Al Ahli seemed lacking teamwork and increasingly depended on individual efforts, mainly that of the younger Shamali brother, Taimour.

Al Orthodoxy's Mustafa Al Ghoul and Abul Tayyeb secured offensive and defensive

rebounding, as the excellent Nabulsi and Sahlieh scored to lift their team to an 86-45 lead. Meanwhile, the unrelenting Taimour Al Shamali defended, rebounded and scored most of his team's points. Al Orthodoxy, however, were unstoppable as they won the championship defeating Al Ahli 90-61.

In a previous match Al Jalil won third place as they beat Al Hussein 76-67. Also Tuesday Al Jazireh were crowned U-15 champions while Al Ahli received the U-17 trophy. Next on the JBF agenda is the First Division Championship which will begin Friday Dec. 11.

FINAL STANDINGS

Team	W	L	PF	SA	Pts
Al Orthodoxy	5	1	515	385	11
Al Ahli	4	2	440	412	10
Al Jalil	3	3	405	406	9
Al Hussein	0	6	404	561	6

Match worth an entire season

FLORENCE (AP) — If Fiorentina doesn't win another match this season, its fans will probably forgive the team.

At times, a single victory can outweigh the results of an entire year.

"I'm stressed out, like all our fans," said Fiorentina president Mario Cecchi Gori after the viola handily defeated Juventus of Torino 2-0. "We all feel anxiety, and the responsibility to beat Juventus here in Florence, and today we did it."

With the loss to Fiorentina, Juventus failed to take advantage of AC Milan's unexpected 1-1 draw against Udinese. Nor was Internazionale of Milan, shellacked 3-0 at Ancona, able to profit from Milan's false step.

Having played 11 matches — one match fewer than its rivals undefeated Milan sits atop the first division with 19 points. Its nearest rival, Inter, trails by four points, while Juventus, Fiorentina, Torino, and surprising Cagliari are tied at 14 points.

Most sports rivalries are generated by physical proximity — the derbies between the two Milan or two Turin teams or on a perennial battle between equals for league honors.

The Fiorentina-Juventus feud is based instead on history. In 1981-82, the two teams were tied going into the last match of the season.

The viola played to a 0-0 draw at Cagliari. A goal by Fiorentina striker Francesco Graziani was disallowed on a disputed offside call. At the same time, Juventus defeated Catanzaro 1-0 on a last minute penalty kick by Irish playmaker Liam Brady, a penalty kick that Fiorentina fans claim was invented — along with the offside call.

Florence's fans have neither

forgotten nor forgiven the Juventus "cheat."

"In the past, when Juventus was much stronger than we were, it was enough that Fiorentina beat Juventus and ruin its chances for winning the title," said Viola fan club president Marcello Mammi. "That was our most important objective."

And Juventus has repaid the animosity in kind.

"For the first time since I've been here, people stopped me on the street and asked me to score a goal against Fiorentina," said German midfielder Andreas Moeller, playing his first season with Juventus.

"You don't understand, they told me. This isn't like other matches. It's not even like the derby."

Sunday's victory was so important to Cecchi Gori that he broke his own contract with his players to award them a special 100 million (\$75,000) victory prize.

"I would be wrong if I didn't reach for my wallet here," said the film and television mogul. "We couldn't have played any better than we did today. And we showed that we were equal to Juventus."

Since 1982, the two teams have enjoyed vastly different destinies. Juventus went on to win two more Italian titles, a European Champions Cup, a European Super Cup, and an Intercontinental Cup. Fiorentina's best showing was a fourth place finish in 1986. The team has finished 12th for three consecutive seasons.

In 1990, Fiorentina reached the finals of the UEFA Cup where it lost or — you guessed to — Juventus.

As if it were necessary, more gasoline was poured onto the Fiorentina-Juventus fire in May

1990, when star Fiorentina playmaker Roberto Baggio was sold to the Turin club for a then-record sum of 25 billion lire (\$10.0 million).

Injured during Italy's World Cup qualifying match against Scotland, Baggio did not dress for Sunday's contest at Florence. Since his "defection," Juventus has lost all three of its matches at Florence.

The scenes at Florence's Comunale Stadium have not always been uplifting. Last year, Fiorentina fans taunted Juventus supporters with chants referring to the death of former Juventus star Gaetano Scirea. On Sunday, it was the Juventus fans turn to offend with anti-semitic shouts aimed at the viola rooters.

Florence mayor Giorgio Morales was indignant about the anti-semitic chants by hometown fans.

"They should stop the match for protest," he said after the first half of play, with Fiorentina leading 1-0. "The players should walk off the field and not return. Even if this is Fiorentina-Juventus."

IOC to tighten dope test loopholes

LAUSANNE (AP) — Olympic officials are moving to head off lawsuits of the type that won Dutch Reynolds \$27.3 million in damages from world track's ruling body.

The International Olympic Committee said it would review and perfect all of its drug testing procedures to discourage athletes from going to court to challenge positive drug findings.

"We are sure we will be in a position where it will be impossible to find any failure in these rules," said Prince Alexandre de Merode, chairman of the IOC Medical Commission. "Somebody can always contest and say he wants to verify the procedure inside the laboratory. They have to prove we have made a mistake or the lab has made a mistake."

Olympic officials are worried that the Reynolds case will lead to a flurry of other lawsuits in the United States before the 1996 summer games in Atlanta.

De Merode said athletes should continue to have legal recourse to challenge drug-test results, but he complained that courts often ignore the key issue.

Reynolds, the world record holder in the 400 metres, claimed there were faulty procedures in the drug test which led to his suspension in 1990 for alleged use of the banned anabolic steroid Nandrolone.

He filed suit against the International Amateur Athletic Federation, and last week a federal judge in Columbus, Ohio, awarded him \$20.5 million in

punitive damages and \$6.8 million in potential lost earnings.

The IAAF dismissed the verdict as "worthless," saying the U.S. Court has no jurisdiction over the London based federation. The IAAF has also threatened to extend Reynolds' suspension, due to expire Dec. 31, and to sue him for libel.

Francois Carrard, the IOC's director general, said one or two working groups would be set up to deal with the doping and litigation issues. The panel will include lawyers and officials from the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer. The Atlanta Games and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

A possible solution, Carrard said, is to establish an independent arbitration commission to settle doping and other disputes. He has suggested requiring athletes to sign a form promising to resolve any grievances in arbitration rather than in the courts.

On another doping issue, De Merode reported that progress continues to be made in blood testing and the procedure should be ready to be introduced at the Lillehammer Games. Blood tests are designed to detect open and other banned substances which can't be found in urinalysis.

The executive board is scheduled to hear reports from organizers of three winter games — 1992 in Albertville, 1994 in Lillehammer and 1998 in Nagano, Japan. The final session Wednesday is dedicated to meetings with the international winter sports federations.

Grand Slam Cup likely to be McEnroe's last major tournament

MUNICH (AP) — Nothing has been decided for certain, John McEnroe says, but this week's Grand Slam Cup could be the last big tournament for the man whose talent and temper left such a huge impression on the game in the last decade.

McEnroe, in an interview with the German newsmagazine Der Spiegel published Monday, said he won't play any more Grand Slam tournaments. But he also appeared to be leaving the door slightly ajar for a possible change of mind about a full retirement.

"Nothing has been decided 100 per cent, but I know that it's the end now. I want to stay in shape so that I can play some exhibitions against the top players such as Boris Becker or Michael Stich. But in Wimbledon, in Paris and at the U.S. Open, I'll be working as commentator," McEnroe was quoted as saying.

"Let's put it this way: I am withdrawing," McEnroe was quoted as saying in the Spiegel interview.

The Grand Slam Cup, the richest tournament in the world, which starts Tuesday, will dish out \$6 million to the 16 players invited to the six day event.

The winner will go home \$2

million richer, first round losers will collect \$100,000 in consolation.

The tournament invites players with the best record in the four Grand Slam events of the year — The Australian, French, U.S. Opens and Wimbledon.

Top-ranked Jim Courier, who won in Australia and France, has declined to play.

Also missing is Boris Becker. David Wheaton, who won last year, is sure to make \$50,000 this year — as an alternate, should another player join Ivan Lendl in dropping out at the last moment.

Niklas Kulti was summoned to replace the injured Lendl and will face McEnroe in the opening round.

The tournament begins Tuesday with Henri Leconte playing Wayne Ferreira, Petr Korda facing Wally Masur, Guy Forget against Goran Ivanisevic and Emilio Sanchez against Richard Krajcek, in that order.

On Wednesday, McEnroe plays Kulti, Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi meets Michael Chang, top seeded and U.S. Open champion Stefan Edberg battles Michael Stich and Pete Sampras, the 1990 winner here, faces Alexander Volkov.

Barcelona, Sao Paulo to clash for World Club title

TOKYO (R) — Barcelona of Spain or Sao Paulo of Brazil? There is little to choose between the two in-form sides who compete in Tokyo Sunday for the title of the world's best club team.

A global television audience of hundreds of millions is assured for the annual Toyota Cup match, the 13th since crowd and player violence made organization scrap the original home-and-away clash between European and South American champions.

The Brazilians arrived in Tokyo Monday night and, despite wind and rain, at once went to train in a park near their hotel.

We're fortunate we could bring our best players here, Sao Paulo coach Tele Santana told reporters. If we play to the best of our ability, we can win.

Our four goals in the Sao Paulo championship final proves we are an attacking team. So is Barcelona. It is going to be an attractive game.

The match is the most important in the history of this club, Santana said.

Sao Paulo beat Palmeiras 4-2 at the weekend in the first leg of the championship final. The second leg is on December 19.

Against all the odds, Sao Paulo have managed to keep European clubs from poaching their best players. They retain the core of the team that won the Libertadores Cup in June, including four regular members of Brazil's national team — Cafu, Rai, Muller and Palhinha.

Sao Paulo's probable line-up for Sunday is: Zetti, Vitor, Adilson, Ronaldo, Ronaldo Luis Pinheiro, Tominho Cerezo, Palhinha Rai, Cafu and Muller.

Barcelona, due in Tokyo Thursday, are also in superb form, top of the Spanish League, two points clear of the pack after a comfortable 4-0 win at lowly Cadix, with two goals from fiery Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov.

Barcelona have scored 15 goals in their last three games. Apart from the quicksilver Stoichkov, Sao Paulo must watch Dutch sharpshooter Ronald Koeman, Dane Michael Laudrup and Spaniard Julio Salinas.

Such is the growing passion for soccer in Japan, not long ago a minnow in the world game, that all 60,000 stadium seats for the Toyota Cup match sold out in a matter of days.

Japan launches its first professional league next May, and the country is favourite to stage the 2002 World Cup. Sunday's final will be broadcast to 100 countries.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Four

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The Lunar Eclipse and Full Moon in Gemini is well aspected, trining both Jupiter and Saturn, allowing you to face any threedom choice in a philosophical manner without making unwise comments.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) An outside matter can require a considerable amount of patience on your part but after some progress through a unique plan.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are pressured from within or without to go after a new goal that is not yet ready for your attention, but tonight put something modern in your vacation.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) An argument in the morning over some money or property matter could put you behind the eight ball but tonight you find new aims that can be very good for you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think about what you can do to appease an outside who is upset instead of adding fuel to the flames of discontentment, later do what you agreed in a progressive manner.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be sure not to get in a hassle in the morning with a fellow associate for later you find that a partner will go along with an unusual wish of insurance to you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You want to commit yourself

to some pleasure in the that is unwise to curb the while tonight adapting ne to your job helps very

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) At home all the annoyances can take place to find some to find some outlets to bring you into

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are not to communication angrily, but off until you are in a better, and instead concentrate on

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You need doing anything about you all affairs in the daytime, speed the day and evening eliminating former misa

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) You are good snap now but calm for then you will be able clearly what you can, prove, modernize your

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) A secret worry, a you discontentment in the if you permit and instead time concentrating up appearance and activities

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) Consider what the work items of a personal nature, you but do nothing about while you get ways to have anxiety right.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Har

HARRIS



"How can you say I'm not romantic? emptied the litter box for you!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WICTE

MAUHN

ERVEWS

TOENED

Answer: WICTE, MAUHN, ERVEWS, TOENED

Yesterday's Jumbles: LOUSE HONOR CUPFUL SUCKLE

Answer: How a magician draws away your focus — BY HOCUS FOCUS

UP HIS

Answers to the

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS

1 Mild exclamation

6 Indian

9 Flagrant

14 Designate

15 is inclusive

16 Confederate signature

17 Clock face

18 Leaves out

21 Insertion mark

20 Author's paraphrase?

23 Adolescent

24 Obsolete

25 Call on

26 One from another

31 Imprint

35 — water (facing trouble)

36 Large quantity

38 "I've got it!"

39 Outfitter of stowaways?

43 Always, to poets

44 Downpour

45 Scott, landowner

46 Highway: abbr.

48 Raise

50 Roosters

51 Actor Chaney

52 Number two son

53 Partial gift

54 — Dillon

58 Hawaiian goose

59 Unsettled

60 Pub beverages

61 Alumnus, for

62 Hares

68 Not one

70 Explorer

Hernando De

DOWN

1 Conclude

2 Pace

3 Oriental nursemaid

4 Enslavement

5 Rousing task

6 Call attention

7 Send out

8 Town near Padua

9 Risp

10 Eastern

11 Norwegian king

12 Poets

13 Crotch

14 Indolence

15 Casual recess

16 Portion

17 Address Messay

18 Book

19 Cloth strainer

20 Graph

21 Poker players

22 Vander

23 Chili con

24 Falsehood at sea

25 Leg-o'-mutton, e.g.

26 Rude support

27 Certain group

28 Flagmaster Rose

29 Pointed stick

30 Flower

31 Arabian gulf

32 Planted Peter

33 Vehicle

34 Tokyo, once

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Date 8.12.1992	London Date 8.12.1992
Sterling Pound	1.9975	1.9977
Deutsche Mark	1.9965	1.9977
Swiss Franc	1.9965	1.9968
French Franc	5.3465	5.3295
Japanese Yen	123.81	123.83
European Currency Unit	1.2631	1.2946

European Opening at 8.00 a.m. GMT
Barocurrency Interest Rates

Date: 8.12.1992

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	4.00	5.81	5.81	5.12
Sterling Pound	7.25	7.00	6.68	6.62
Deutsche Mark	4.18	4.01	3.57	3.75
Swiss Franc	6.18	6.06	5.95	5.75
French Franc	10.25	10.12	9.62	8.75
Japanese Yen	5.01	5.02	5.02	5.05
European Currency Unit	10.81	10.76	9.87	9.01

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 U.S. Dollar, 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Date: 8.12.1992

Metals	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metals	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	336.20	6.51	Silver	5.78	1.01

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 8.12.1992

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6840	0.6870
Sterling Pound	1.0962	1.0997
Deutsche Mark	0.4995	0.5018
Swiss Franc	0.4911	0.4936
French Franc	0.1250	0.1258
Japanese Yen	0.0027	0.0028
Dutch Guilder	0.3915	0.3935
Swedish Krona	0.1028	0.1035
Italian Lira	0.0049	0.0050
Belgian Franc	0.0210	0.0212

Date: 8.12.1992

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7950	1.8150
Lebanese Lira	0.0050	0.0058
Saudi Rial	0.1824	0.1836
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2800	2.3000
Qatari Riyal	0.1853	0.1867
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.7750
UAE Dirham	0.1853	0.1867
Greek Drachma	0.3225	0.3250
Cypriot Pound	1.4700	1.4910

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Date: 6.12.1992 Close 7.12.1992 Close

Index	6.12.1992 Close	7.12.1992 Close
All-Share	167.09	167.30
Banking Sector	120.43	120.11
Insurance Sector	184.08	183.78
Industry Sector	228.47	229.71
Services Sector	248.11	257.52

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for trading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.5950/60	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2710/15	Canadian dollar
	1.5598/608	Deutschmarks
	1.7525/45	Dutch guilders
	1.3985/95	Swiss francs
	32.11/15	Belgian francs
	5.3215/65	French francs
	1374/1377	Italian lire
	123.84/89	Japanese yen
	6.7165/265	Swedish crowns
	6.3800/900	Norwegian crowns
	6.0500/600	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	\$334.75/335.25	

Ministry of Water and Irrigation needs financial pool to avoid running dry

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is still capable of maintaining Jordanians afloat on a limited, yet declining, amount of water but the ministry is running dry as world financial resources are not pumping enough liquidity to help the ministry achieve better water security for the Kingdom.

Water and Irrigation Minister Samir Kavar told the fourth economic forum, organized by the Jordanian Businessmen Association Monday night, that the ministry had posted an overall JD 42 million loss last year as its expenditures outstripped the earnings in all areas.

The minister, who did not elaborate, said that the problems of his ministry arose from the population growth, lack of public awareness of Jordan's limited water resources, water pollution and the Kingdom's loss of a high percentage of its regional water rights.

Mr. Kavar mentioned the ministry's inability to secure enough foreign and local financing as another important hindrance to saving water costs through renewing Amman's water distribution network, building dams and improving water treatment installations.

Mr. Kavar made clear that due to political, social and financial factors it was neither possible nor feasible to embark on desalination projects or to carry out schemes to obtain water from neighbouring Arab countries. He did not make any prediction on how a peace agreement with Israel would change Jordan's water situation, but noted that water issues have always been a cause of conflicts in our region and that Jordan manages its water situation nowadays at crisis-management levels.

Jordan, he said, is characterized as a dry and semi-dry country, dependent mainly on rain water, 85 per cent of which gets lost through evaporation, five per cent replenishes underground water basins and the rest gets wasted in creeks and valleys.

The minister explained that although Jordan received 13,100 million cubic metres (MCM) of rain last year, the average yearly amount is 8,500 cubic metres.

Mr. Kavar revealed that in 1991 Jordanians consumed 833 MCM from surface and underground water, the main two resources; 178 MCM went for drinking purposes, 42 MCM for industrial usage and 613 MCM for irrigation requirements.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation estimates that surface water, which accumulates from running water in valleys, springs and floods, averages about 692 MCM, of which 321 MCM were consumed in 1991. Mr. Kavar said that 31 per cent of the available surface water came from the Yarmouk River and other sources from wadis (valleys).

The minister said that the 1991-1992 winter season had exposed the lack of adequate dams. The existing ones only have a capacity of collecting 110 MCM of rain water. King Talal Dam and Wadi Al Arab Dam could not absorb the heavy rain water of last year.

A good water source could have come from Al Wahdah dam had the Israelis not frightened international financiers from funding the project which could have added 120 MCM to Jordan's water resources, the minister added.

He said that the ministry would be working on other dams, such as Al Karamah, Al Moujeb, Al Waleh, Al Tannour and Wadi Al Jirdan, to collect the largest possible amount of surface water.

According to the ministry figures, a total of 512 MCM were extracted from underground resources in 1991; 65 MCM were taken from non-renewable basins, the most important of which is Al Disi water basin in the south, and 447 MCM were taken from renewable resources.

Mr. Kavar told the audience that pumping water from renewable underground basins was far above the safety level of 275 MCM a year and, as such, the ministry was intensifying its supervision to ensure that water extraction from these basins remained under authorised drilling only.

Treated waste water amounted to 37 MCM in 1991 but the amount is expected to rise to 66 MCM by the year 2000.

He explained that 55 per cent of the country's population was benefiting from sewerage facilities and that waste water was treated at 14 plants. Treated water, the minister pointed out, constitutes six per cent of the water used for irrigation.

The largest amount of water is consumed by irrigation with a total of 613 MCM used for that purpose in 1991. The amount, representing 75 per cent of the total water consumption in Jordan, irrigated 640,000 dunums, 335,000 of which were in the Jordan Valley and southern Ghor area.

The minister mentioned that Jordan's total water consumption in 1991 was 883 MCM but he expected demand to rise to 1,638 MCM in the year 2005.

He predicted that in the year 2005 demand for household water would be an annual 426 MCM, industry demand would be 124 MCM and irrigation needs would rise to 1,088 MCM.

Mr. Kavar said that each individual used an average 208 cubic metres a year of the total water

consumption in 1991.

Due to population growth, he added, the average per individual would drop to only 170 cubic metres a year in the year 2005 if additional water resources are not developed.

"The internationally acceptable water consumption average per individual is between 1,000-2,000 cubic metres a year," the minister pointed out.

The water distribution network covers 97 per cent of the Kingdom's four million population. Mr. Kavar said, adding that household water consumption amounted to 179 MCM in 1991, or 21.5 per cent of the Kingdom's total water consumption.

"By 2005, when the population would rise to 6.2 million, household water consumption would rise to 426 MCM... meaning that Jordan should double its water extraction every 20 years to meet public demand," Mr. Kavar said.

Noting that the lowest internationally-accepted level of water consumption for each person is 100 cubic metres a year, the minister said the level per person from Jordan was only 45 cubic metres.

"When taking into consideration that 30 per cent of household water gets lost in the distribution network, then the average per person is even less than 45 cubic metres a year," he explained.

"This situation," the minister stressed, "has forced us to plan a wide-range programme to renew the water distribution network during the 5-year 1993-1998 development plan, taking into consideration that there are 479,000 household subscribers, 44 per cent of whom live in Amman."

The industrial sector's water consumption amounted to 42 MCM in 1991 and the minister predicted a rise to 125 MCM by the year 2005.

He explained that although the phosphate, potash and fertiliser plants, the oil refinery and Al Hussein Thermal Power Station were the main industries to use water, it was imperative on all others to conserve water, recycle waste water after treatment and consider water usage as an industrial input and not as a free source of the industrialisation process.

The figures which the minister gave clearly show that the ministry operated at a total loss.

The ministry earned JD 18.5 million in 1991 from households,

but the cost it incurred amounted to JD 39.3 million. In other words, the cost of providing households with water ran at 504 fils per cubic metre, whereas the household paid only 237 fils as charges, which amounted to 47 per cent of the cost.

"73 per cent of the income is paid in return as cost for power to pump the water," Mr. Kavar noted.

The ministry also loses on the sanitation; it earned JD 7.8 million in sewerage fees in 1991 while spending JD 16 million a year in various costs in this area. The amounts translate into 169 fils of income per one cubic metre of treated water compared to a cost of 347 fils a cubic metre, or 48 per cent of the cost only.

The ministry sells water for irrigation at a cost of six fils per cubic metre and, as such, earns about JD 737,000 a year while the cost in this field averages JD 2.18 million a year.

Mr. Kavar warned that the water situation was really critical and stressed that the deficit, which stood at 320 MCM in 1991, would rise to about 574 MCM by the year 2005.

The deficit is the difference between available water resources and water needs.

The minister said water pumping from underground basins was

going far beyond maximum levels to meet rising demand, at the expense of endangering water, quality and risking the consequences of higher salinity.

He urged water conservation by the public and all economic sectors and promised higher efforts in building dams, drilling wells and, most importantly, renewing the water distribution network. Moreover, new irrigation methods will be expanded to save water.

The minister revealed that 80 MCM of water would also be brought from Al Disi basin to the consumption centres by 1996.

Mr. Kavar concluded by warning industrialists against dumping waste water and solid waste in valleys and near water basins.

"Industrialists ought to build their own waste water treatment plants or else they will face strict punishments," the minister emphasised. "We will not allow polluting the King Talal Dam again."

The pollution of King Talal Dam in 1990 caused a JD 50 million loss to the country from lost agricultural exports," according to the minister.

Mr. Kavar was asked if water charges will be raised in the future but he gave a circumvented explanation without giving a clear answer.

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200 fleeing Tajik refugees drown

GENEVA (Agencies) — About 200 refugees fleeing Tajikistan for Afghanistan are believed to have drowned crossing the Amu Darya River on the frontier, the U.N. said Tuesday.

About 5,000 refugees of an estimated 62,000 massed at the border crossed the river Sunday, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

They told relief officials upon their arrival in Afghanistan of having been attacked by helicopters, spokeswoman Sylvana Foa told a news briefing.

In interviews with UNHCR delegates in northern Afghanistan, 16 refugees told of having been "attacked by helicopters," Ms. Foa said, adding, "They are cold, hungry and in pretty bad shape."

No more details were available from the Geneva-based humanitarian agency.

Tajikistan, among the poorest of the 15 former Soviet republics, has been hit by fighting for months, and political authority has collapsed.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says the virtual civil war between clans and political factions has displaced one in 10 of the five million population of Tajikistan.

Meanwhile, Islamic guerrillas threw up barricades in central streets of Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe Tuesday, using fallen trees, cars and lorries, witnesses said.

"We can hear artillery fire coming from the western approaches to the city," said one Dushanbe resident, contacted by telephone from Tashkent, capital of neighbouring Uzbekistan.

The guerrillas, dressed in striped kufis and armed with Kalashnikov rifles, were expecting an onslaught on the city by ex-Communist forces entrenched in the suburbs.

On Monday, bread rationing went into effect in the besieged capital, swollen with more than 110,000 refugees.

In other unrest around the former Soviet Union, Armenian fighters reported that they had rebuffed a two-day Azerbaijani attack on the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, site of the bloodiest ethnic conflict in the former Soviet Union.

The Armenians said they killed 150 Azerbaijani soldiers, destroyed five tanks and downed a helicopter and a SU 25 attack jet, according to ITAR-TASS. The report could not be independently confirmed.

In a separate development, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said Monday that Georgia was preparing a major offensive after peaceful attempts to settle the conflict with separatist Abkhazias failed.

"We must resolve the Abkhazia conflict by military means," the former Soviet foreign minister said on Georgian radio.

"It was very hard for me to come to this conclusion, because my position of conciliation and compromise is well known...but unfortunately, all chances for a peaceful settlement in Abkhazia have been exhausted," he said.

Mr. Shevardnadze spoke after Georgian troops shelled separatist positions along the Gumista River, and Abkhazians fired on the Georgian-held resort of Sukhumi.

Three civilians were killed Sunday by the artillery fire on Sukhumi, the ITAR-TASS News Agency reported. Four more died Monday when an unmarked aircraft bombed a new residential area of the seaside city, hitting a 16-story apartment building, according to Georgian officials and the Kavkazinform News Agency.

Rebels in Abkhazia, a picturesque region along the Black Sea in western Georgia, have been battling Georgian troops since mid-August. Scores of people have been killed, and thousands of refugees have fled to neighbouring areas of the Caucasus mountains.

Mr. Shevardnadze sent troops into the region on Aug. 13 to root out supporters of ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. Abkhazian leaders said the troops were dispatched to crush their independence campaign, and they organised popular resistance.

Mr. Shevardnadze Monday promised that after Georgia suppressed the separatists, it would hold free elections and provide "real autonomy" for Abkhazia, as long as it remains a province of Georgia.

Noting that Georgia now has a "professional military," Mr. Shevardnadze said, "I have come to the conclusion that we must finish the 'Abkhazian conflict in the shortest way possible, even if it is hard."

Ethnic Abkhazians are a minority in their region, which has a total population of about 500,000, including many ethnic Georgians, Armenians and Russians.

Yeltsin proposes Gaidar, offers political concessions

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin Monday offered Russia's parliament control over key foreign and security ministers in a bid to get his radical protégé Yegor Gaidar installed as full prime minister.

Mr. Yeltsin, fighting to keep economic reform on track, called on a hostile Congress of People's Deputies to overcome its opposition to Acting Prime Minister Gaidar and confirm him in office.

"With a full sense of responsibility, at a critical time for Russia, I propose Yegor Gaidar as prime minister... for the whole world this would be the guarantee of Russia moving forward along the path of reform," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Clearly desperate to win support of the supreme legislature against the odds, Mr. Yeltsin first offered a power-sharing deal under which the Supreme Soviet — the standing parliament — would have the right of veto over four ministers.

These were the foreign, defence, security and interior ministers.

Giving parliament the right of veto over the foreign minister placed a question mark over the future of the present incumbent, Andrei Kozyrev, who has been sharply criticised by powerful conservatives in the Supreme Soviet for taking too pro-Western a policy line.

Mr. Yeltsin, in the run-up to the opening of the congress on Dec. 1, said he would not sacrifice Mr. Kozyrev, a liberal career diplomat appointed in 1990, in any political trade-off.

His concession on that score underlined the scale of opposition pressure exerted on him at the congress and reflected the fear that economic policy would unravel if Mr. Gaidar was forced out.

Mr. Gaidar's reappointment has become a key test of Mr. Yeltsin's ability to impose his will on the 1,040-member congress which is dominated by conservatives opposed to his "shock therapy" reforms.

His rejection would deal a blow to Mr. Yeltsin's authority at home and in the West.

The 36-year-old Gaidar remained plunged in thought, his head on his chest, as he heard his patron describe him as "courageous, brave, devoted to his cause and... just smart."

The latter remark drew hollow laughter from more sceptical conservative deputies.

Mr. Yeltsin said his nomination of Mr. Gaidar was based on the belief "that what the country needs today is not another outbreak of confrontation in the highest echelon of power, but stability."

Deputies were to make a final decision on Mr. Gaidar's fate Wednesday.

Mr. Yeltsin came up with his power-sharing deal after a heated early morning meeting with faction leaders.

Privatisation Minister Anatoly Chubais, a leading light in Mr.

Gaidar's young team, said Monday night that virtually all key economic ministers would quit if Mr. Gaidar fell.

It was impossible to say whether Mr. Gaidar would garner the 521 votes necessary for endorsement given the unpredictable nature of the congress which has a body of about 200 deputies of no fixed political loyalties known as "the swamp."

At the weekend Mr. Yeltsin narrowly avoided defeat when the opposition came within four votes of getting a two-thirds majority on the issue of presidential control over government appointments.

Pyotr Aven, minister for foreign economic ties and another key player in the Gaidar team, expressed confidence at the outcome.

He told reporters: "I think the economic part of the government will remain intact after the congress. The president has extremely good political intuition and I rely on it."

Ilya Konstantinov, a deputy of the hardline National Salvation Front, said flatly: "Gaidar will not get through."

Sergei Baburin, a leader of the Russian Union faction of ex-Communists, said he would press for parliamentary control over the ministries of finance and economy in addition to the four named by Mr. Yeltsin.

Mr. Gaidar is rejected by parliament, Mr. Yeltsin could retain him as acting premier until the next congress in April.

The fighting, the most serious in weeks, seemed to be out of control as the U.N. peacekeepers, who approached the Serbs to ask them to stop fighting, said they were forced to withdraw under fire.

French Colonel Armeil Vout of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) described the situation as "very serious."

He said: "We are supposed to have free movement along that road. We have asked them to stop the fighting."

The road to the airport is a vital conduit for U.N. peacekeeping operations and aid into the city. A thick layer of smoke hung over the entire area.

In Geneva, a U.N. official said the international airlift of urgent food supplies, set to resume

Wednesday, would probably be delayed due to the fighting around the airport.

Technical talks between the five states involved in the airlift — Britain, Canada, France, Germany and the United States — and UNHCR officials on its resumption were scheduled for Tuesday in the Bosnian capital.

But Mr. Fao said: "All our staff are in bunkers. The airport has already taken several rounds of shooting."

Four antennae of the airport radar system have been damaged in the shelling and need repair, she added.

The flare-up in fighting came only hours after Bosnian Serbs and Muslims achieved agreement to ensure safety of UNHCR and UNPROFOR flights to and from the airport.

The fighting shattered hopes, raised by a lull earlier in the morning, that the Bosnian rivals might make most of a fresh attempt by international mediators in Geneva to negotiate

a peaceful settlement to the bloodshed.

At the start of their three-day separate talks with co-chairmen of the international conference on former Yugoslavia, the leaders of Bosnia's three warring sides presented maps setting out their plans for a peacetime Bosnia.

But diplomats and the Bosnian themselves said fierce battles around Sarajevo — and vastly differing conceptions of how Bosnia should end up looking — were seriously hampering the Geneva peace process.

The combination of (Serb) firepower and winter conditions is making this conference increasingly irrelevant," Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic, representing Bosnia's Muslim-led government, told Reuters.

A U.N. aid convoy carrying basic food from Belgrade to the Muslim town of Gorazde, was stopped at Zvornik, some 150 kilometres north of its destination, by local Serbs who said they had not been informed of its arrival, a UNHCR spokeswoman said.

The Bosnian army confirmed Tuesday that its offensive against Serb positions on Trebevic Mountain overlooking the capital Monday had ended in defeat.

Bosnian Radio reported heavy shelling of the Sarajevo districts of Dobrinja, Stari Grad, Vogosca and Zuc and fierce infantry and artillery battles in most of northern Bosnia.



Militia officers stand ready as pro-Communist demonstrators shout slogans against Russian President Boris Yeltsin while deputies walk to the Kremlin (AFP photo)

Fierce fighting seals off Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Fierce fighting broke out in Sarajevo Tuesday, effectively cutting it off from the outside world after Serb tanks closed the main road leading to the airport, U.N. peacekeepers said.

They said fierce clashes between Serbs and Muslims were continuing along the airport road and on the only other route into the capital from Serb-held Ilidza.

French peacekeepers said at least two Serb tanks on the airport road had fired some 20 rounds into the Dobrinja suburb.

The local clinic reported some 40 people, civilians and soldiers, wounded in the morning's onslaught.

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Amnesty: Chinese torture increasing

PEKING (R) — The human rights group Amnesty International accused the Chinese government Wednesday of widespread use of brutal and sometimes fatal torture against prisoners, despite laws forbidding the practice.

"Torture has become endemic in many places of detention in China and the abuses suffered by prisoners are now more severe than they were ten years ago," the London-based group said in a report.

"We believe the law-enforcement and justice systems in China actually foster torture," the group said in a statement.

"Prisoners have very few rights in law and virtually none in practice, leading to many criminal and political suspects and prisoners being abused to force confessions and as punishment," it said.

Chinese law forbids torture, and last year authorities prosecuted 407 cases of extracting confessions by torture.

But Amnesty International's 60-page report states that torture is routine and provides details of incidents such as one in north China's Shaanxi province called "the old ox plowing the land."

Two prisoners being punished for fighting were handcuffed together and tied with a rope. Guards forced a group of prisoners to walk with the rope, dragging the two bound prisoners along until the concrete ground was covered in blood, it said.

General Higinio Carneiro described as superficial a U.N. report that opposition forces may have started to pull out.

"There are still UNITA forces in Uige and Negage," the general told state-run radio. "We have still not received a response confirming the withdrawal."

The occupation more than a week ago of Uige, 300 kilometres northeast of Luanda, and nearby Negage, the most important air base in the north, was a major advance for UNITA, which has taken some 75 per cent of Angola since disputing the results of September elections.

The U.N. special representative, Margaret Anstee, said at the weekend that according to preliminary reports UNITA (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) had apparently begun to leave the two cities.

But diplomats expressed scepticism and U.N. sources later said privately it appeared UNITA still maintained a presence there and government forces had not regained control.

Mandela wants summit with Buthelezi

WINDHOEK (R) — Nelson Mandela has accused his rival Mangosuthu Buthelezi of being deaf to suffering in South Africa's black townships but said he was still trying to arrange a peace summit with the Zulu leader.

The African National Congress (ANC) leader, talking to diplomats during a one-day visit to Namibia, said negotiators from the two sides would meet Wednesday to begin preparations for a meeting.

Mr. Mandela said he had done everything possible to draw Mr. Buthelezi into a discussion about township violence that kills about 10 people a day.

"Not once has he responded or answered my calls," he said.

He described Mr. Buthelezi as "someone who is totally deaf to the sufferings of our people."

South African peace mediators have been urging Mr. Mandela and Mr. Buthelezi, South Africa's most powerful black leaders, to meet to end six years of bloody rivalry between their followers.

Mr. Mandela reiterated his four conditions for a one-on-one meeting with Mr. Buthelezi, a former ANC colleague who has become a bitter foe and leader of the rival Inkatha Freedom Party.

These include the dismantling of Inkatha followers, measures to phase out migrant worker hostels dominated by Inkatha and political freedom for the ANC in Inkatha territory.

Mr. Mandela and Buthelezi have not met since September last year, when they were among 19 leaders including President F.W. de Klerk who signed a largely ineffective peace accord.

Township violence mainly between ANC and Inkatha supporters has killed about 3,000 people this year.

Mr. Buthelezi met other conservative black and white leaders in the concerned South Africans Group (COSAG) in Pretoria Monday to prepare for talks with Mr. de Klerk later this week.

They said in a joint statement they shared a commitment to a federation of virtually autonomous states in a future South Africa.

They included Andries Treurnicht of the white-supremacist Conservative Party and Oupa Gqozo, military ruler of the Ciskei tribal homeland regarded by Pretoria as an independent state.

COSAG was formed to mobilise opposition to a "record of understanding" between Mr. Mandela and Mr. de Klerk in September.

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Angolan military says rebels still in key cities

Ms. Anstee is due to meet U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali in New York later this week to discuss Angola, which has faced fresh major hostilities since UNITA began violating 1991 peace accords ending 16 years of civil war.

International observers of the accords increasingly doubt UNITA's assertions that it wants peace, after its occupation of three provincial capitals and assaults on various cities.

The United Nations has come under increasing criticism for its handling of the peace process — setting aside a small team of monitors and budget and allowing elections to go ahead without full de-mobilisation of the two opposing forces.

Diplomats said once of Ms. Anstee's top military aides, General Edward Uinima, would be replaced by another Nigerian and a second senior aide was also expected to be changed.

State-run media said Tuesday the situation was tense in Bie, Huambo, Benguela, Malanje and Huila provinces.

President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos swore in a new government last week, warning UNITA that patience was running out with its military mobilisation and the government could not be

expected to pursue dialogue much longer.

Foreign military experts say UNITA is waging a low level undeclared war, sowing confusion and economic strangulation in various centres without being able to hold them.

The government, with a small air force but too few troops on the ground to back major action at the moment, is gearing up for an offensive if peace negotiations fail, the experts said.

Meanwhile Namibia said Monday it suspected the South African military was trying to revive apartheid-era destabilisation of southern Africa by sending illegal flights over neighbouring states to Angola.

Foreign Minister Theo Ben-Gurirab said a spate of unexplained flights would be a hot topic at a summit of heads of state of countries bordering South Africa in Harare Friday.

Mr. Ben-Gurirab said the flights, apparently carrying cargo from South Africa to the Angolan opposition UNITA movement, were probably mounted by South African Security Forces acting beyond the control of reformist President F.W. de Klerk.

"It's quite a disastrous development but we are not entirely surprised," Mr. Ben-Gurirab told

Reuters in an interview.

"De Klerk may be a new African leader and he may mean what he's been saying, but he is operating within the same system, (which is) by and large controlled by the military, security and intelligence people over whom, it appears to us, he does not have effective control," he said.

Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Angola have all complained to Pretoria about overflights they say took place without requests for permission or any other notification.

The South African government has said it is investigating the complaints but has denied any wrongdoing.

Mr. Ben-Gurirab said Namibia had not received a reply to a formal complaint lodged on Oct. 29 about overflights of the vast desert territory between South Africa and Angola.

Before Mr. de Klerk put South Africa on the road to reform in 1990, its black neighbours accused the white government and its security establishment of a campaign of regional destabilisation aimed at keeping political foes off balance.

Supplies were regularly flown across neighbouring states to anti-government forces in Angola and Mozambique, they said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Results show split in Slovenia assembly

LJUBLJANA (R) — Final unofficial results of Slovenia's first national elections released Monday showed that at least seven parties have won seats in the former Yugoslav republic's new National Assembly. The Liberal Democratic Party, which currently controls parliament, had 23.3 per cent of votes. The rival, right-of-centre Christian Democrats had 14.5 per cent and the United List, led by the formerly Communist Social Democratic Renewal Party had 13.6 per cent. The ultra right-wing Slovenian National Party, which espouses strong nationalism, had nearly 9.9 per cent of votes, the Slovenian People's Party, also strongly right-wing, had nearly 8.8 per cent and the Democratic Party, which has a strong influence in the current government, had just over five per cent. The Green Party just squeaked into the parliament with 3.7 per cent of votes.

Ghali proposes U.N. force for Mozambique

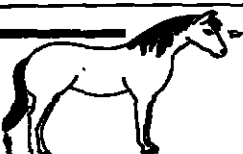
UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has proposed the establishment of a big new U.N. peacekeeping operation, involving about 7,500 troops, police and civilians, to help monitor an agreement ending a devastating civil war in Mozambique. The force, requiring Security Council approval, would be called the U.N. Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ). The United Nations has already launched major peacekeeping missions this year in Yugoslavia, Cambodia and Somalia, in addition to maintaining nine existing operations in such places as Lebanon, Cyprus, El Salvador and on the Iraq-Kuwait border. ONUMOZ would help oversee an accord signed in Rome on Oct. 4 between the formerly Marxist government of President Joaquim Chissano and rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO), led by Afonso Dalakana.

Republicans map challenge to Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans in the House of Representatives have put a more combative stamp on their leadership team, narrowly electing a conservative economist to replace a moderate as the No. 3 party official. As both parties convened to elect their leaders for the coming two years, Republican members chose Texas Rep. Richard Armitage over incumbent Californian Jerry Lewis to chair the House Republican Conference, the organisation of all Republican members. The vote was 88 to 84. "Compromise is not going to be in the vocabulary," in the session of Congress that begins on Jan. 5, complained Rep. Sherwood Boehlert of New York, a member of the party's shrinking moderate wing. Incumbents won easily for the rest of the top posts in both parties: House Speaker Thomas Foley, D-Wash., majority leader Richard Gephardt, D-MV., and majority whip David Bonior, D-Mich., were returned without opposition. Minority leader Bob Michel of Illinois and GOP whip Newt Gingrich of Georgia also won by acclamation.

16 die as buses collide in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Sixteen people were killed and 22 injured when two mini-buses collided in Pakistan's Punjab province Monday, the Pakistan News Agency (PAA) said. It blamed the head-on collision near the central Punjab town of Jhang on speeding.



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Upon graduation there will be a ceremony for the graduates. The certificate will give the rider a document, that the rider can ride in Jordan and abroad. The stud has a programme every Friday a long ride 40-km. Interested riders are welcome to join.

The ride will start at 9 a.m. every Friday. Foreign community can join as members or take the course as a group.

Riding gear can be bought on instalment to encourage the riding sport. The aim of the school is to establish a strong team to represent the club in jumping and cross-country locally and abroad. In addition the school is interested in widening these activities to all sectors of the society. In addition the club offers other activities such as archery, the latest equipment, and basic training in polo.

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COLUMBIA

Women-only train cars highly pop

SEOUL (AP) — Afraid male passengers, or a big number of female or are taking advantage of "women-only coaches" duce on Seoul area train, officials said Monday. Korea National Railroad out 97 per cent of riding in those coaches recent morning rush hours females. On the "women-only" first day in service, about 70 per cent of the were female. Despite the only designation, there is ban on men using those, the railroad said the percentage of female passengers has increased along with about them. The star railroad designated two train's 10 coaches for passengers only after complaints about male-genders fondling women in rush hour trains. Most Korean women are fed off such abuses on the train mode of transport for Seoul's 12 million people company said the new women's coaches would be increased to three next year. The system remains successful.

Home Alone 2 is most popular movie in U.S.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — This weekend in a row Alone 2: Lost in New York the most popular film United States, earning \$11 million at the box office. Murphy's The Distinguished Gentleman debuted in first and Malcolm X shot first signs of slipping, as to figures released Monday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Jagger Whitney Houston's Costner's The Bodyguard up to second from third returns of \$11.1 million. Houston's music from the also is selling well. The track and the single I Wanna Love You are in first four billboard charts. Place at the movies was on returns of \$10.9 million